



Easter – It's all about Living Abundantly

Key Verse: John 10:10b "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly".

What Easter is All About....

Many Professional Theologians "study" what the meaning of Easter is all about – that academic study of Easter is called *Soteriology* – the study of salvation. This, however does not talk much about what Easter means for US – in our daily lives.

On Easter Sunday we talked about the reality that Easter's meaning for us depends a lot on how we _____ to it.

Last week we talked about, whatever Easter is, Easter is for YOU.

Easter is: Jesus coming to us _____ of the reality of our lives and ***being with us***.

Today we listen in on one of Jesus' "figures of speech" (John 10:1-10) as Jesus teaches us about one of the realities of Easter – Easter means that the door has been opened for us to enjoy and participate in what Jesus calls the _____.

An often used image for those who are in the Kingdom of Believers is the image of _____ (baaaa).

Why is this a good image for us?

Sheep cannot care for themselves because they don't know the difference between _____ and _____.

- Sheep are _____.
- Sheep are _____.
- Sheep are _____.

Sheep believe that they know what is best for them even in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

How do most people (inside and outside the Church) search for meaning and purpose in life?

- Having the right _____.

What is the Alternative? the alternative to living our lives chasing after meaning and purpose is:
_____!!

To know what abundant life is, we first need to know what it's not:

- Abundant life is not about _____ stuff or about possessing the right types of stuff.
- Abundant life is not about _____ what is currently at the tip of our noses.
- Abundant life is not about _____ that sheep tend to do when they are left to figure out what life is all about on their own.

Abundant life IS: listening to the _____ of the shepherd and _____ where the shepherd leads.

“Not only does Jesus give the best of things in the life to come; He gives the best of things in this life now! Yes, there are difficulties. Yes, there are problems. Yes, there are challenges. But the constant fellowship that we enjoy with God (and the community of faith) far outweighs the temporary trials of this life.” Leon Morris, New Testament scholar

The one place that exists that offers the highest potential for abundant living is right here within the community of gathered believers – in the _____.

“If we don't take care of her – she dies!” Tiger Woods on the most stunning realization about being a Father.

Abundant life is not about getting what we want, when we want it. It is not about having the right stuff, belonging to the right sports team or club or having our days filled to the brim with every conceivable activity.

Abundant life is the life that we have been promised, by Jesus, that we will experience when we _____ to the voice of our shepherd, follow his lead and allow him to guide and direct our thoughts, our decisions, our behaviors, our commitments and our time management.