

Wednesday, April 1

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”
Jim Elliot

Psalm 14:1 *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”*

What a day to be sending out a spiritual devotion – April Fools’ Day.

So, where does spaghetti come from? Would you believe a spaghetti farm?! Maybe you wouldn’t believe it, but many did. Just ask the thousands of Englishmen duped by a TV special about “spaghetti farming” in northern Italy.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) pulled off one of history’s greatest April Fools’ Day pranks some years ago, airing a fake documentary about the annual pasta harvest along the Swiss-Italian border.

BBC commentator Richard Dimbleby described peasant farmers raking spaghetti out of trees, while news footage rolled in the background. Viewers fell for it – hook, line and noodle.

No one likes being called a fool, yet for millennia that is exactly what many people have labeled Christians. The Jewish religious leaders didn’t expect the Messiah to be killed. And the scholars couldn’t fathom that someone would rise from the dead.

“You really believe Jesus was resurrected from the dead? Fool!”

“Christian, you’ve been royally pranked.”

The apostle Paul put it this way (my paraphrase): “A grave-confined Messiah isn’t good news. If there’s no resurrection, if there’s nothing more than this, if hope is only for this life, then we Christians are to be pitied more than anyone in the world. But if Jesus is alive, it changes everything.”

We can try to convince others, and concede that we might seem a little crazy.
2 Corinthians 5:13 *If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit.*

The intellectuals may ridicule us, or they may want to hear more.
Acts 17:32 *When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, “We want to hear more about this later.”*

The influential may think we’re eccentric.
Acts 26:24 *Suddenly, Festus shouted, “Paul, you are insane. Too much study has made you crazy!”*

On this first day of April remember the fact that **Jesus rose**. April Fools? I hardly think so. Maybe “Easter Fools”, because God did what was thought to be foolish – He allowed His own Son to die for the sin of the world.

“Upon a life I did not live, upon a death I did not die, I risk my whole eternity on the resurrection.” C. H. Spurgeon

Our hope – our sure HOPE in these coronavirus-infected and sin-diseased times isn’t a prank, it’s an Eternal Provision. Stake your life on it – and share it with others.