

## Yesterday was Easter *By Dr. Gregory Wiens*



Yesterday was Easter. Christ is no longer in the grave. No doubt it was a big day in many of our churches around the nation. With great joy, we should celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, who conquered death and set us free from the bondage of sin and legalism. We now live and lead through the grace and presence of the Holy Spirit.

So what difference does it make? Do you experience grace as you lead? I hope that this week you will feel the freedom of knowing that you are loved and accepted for simply whom you are. God's love doesn't ebb and flow with the attendance numbers of your church. Do you truly believe this? I encourage you to take time today to just relax in this truth, soaking up God's perfect love and acceptance.

I understand that it is easy to think that God's love depends on our performance as measured by an index. The Parable of the Talents tells us that God wants us to use the resources He has given us to make the most significant impact possible. Yes, God is pleased when we have been faithful with what He has entrusted to us. Though it's important that you understand that pleasure does not equate with love. For example, when my kids were young and did something foolish, I may not have been pleased with their behavior, but I surely loved them as much as ever. My love for my children is not conditional.

In the current culture, it's easy to fall prey to the standards of conditional love, adopting the lie, "The harder you work, the greater the love." Easter reminds us that He's been devoted to you from the beginning of your life. So today, choose to be thankful, continuing to celebrate the empty tomb. Rest in His completed work of grace. Receive His perfect love and grab hold of the joy of your salvation!