

## “Easter and the Great Cadbury Scandal”

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Romans 1:1-5

April 16, 2017

INTRO ..."The Cadbury Scandal"

*Cadbury has responded to a backlash from customers over the apparent disappearance of the word “Easter” from the front of its Easter egg packaging by insisting that it has not banned it – just relegated it to the back.*

*The chocolate giant has filled its feed on the social media site Twitter with replies to angry messages questioning why Easter treats are now routinely labeled simply as “milk chocolate egg” with no overt mention of the Christian festival.*

*In dozens of postings, many of them accompanied by smiley face symbols, the company attempted to reassure customers with messages such as: “There’s no policy to remove ‘Easter’, it’s still mentioned on the back!” **John Bingham**, “The Telegraph”, March 29, 2017*

- *“...not banned it—just relegated it to the back.”*      *“There’s no policy to remove ‘Easter’, it is still mentioned on the back!”*

### **The Great Easter Scandal—From Headline to Back Page!?**

*How Does Something Like the Easter Event Move from HEADLINE to Small Print on the Back Page of Our Lives? ...How does the historic and theologically rich Easter Weekend go from “Essential Good News” to “Optional, If That’s What You’re Into News”*

*...What does Easter (the Death, Burial, & Resurrection of Jesus Christ) bring to our lives that we would not have without it?*

Romans 1:1-5

v. 1 - The Headline Impact of the 'Easter Event' on the apostle Paul

- His life was redefined—

...What does the apostle Paul hear in the Easter Gospel that makes Easter Weekend **THE HEADLINE** event that defines all of life for him?

- The Bible doesn't present this "Easter Event" as an option for some, but rather as a message that lays claim on the lives of all—v. 5

**Acts 17:30-32** The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” <sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.”

### Rom 1:2-4 ... Introducing Your "LIFE ASSURANCE POLICY"

RIDDLE: How is the Gospel like an Insurance Policy?

v. 4 ...'declared' = 'horizo' - *To mark out definitely, determine, appoint, constitute.*  
(from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament)

...the resurrection declares the boundaries on the claims and promises that the Son of God makes toward us.

### **The Easter Life Assurance Policy**

(The Promises for Man that are Tied Up in Easter Weekend!)

### Declaration Page

**Covered!**

- **Forgiveness—You're COVERED!**

**P s 130:3-4** If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup>  
But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

**Dan 9:9-10** To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him

Matt 26:28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Heb 9:22 without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Acts 13:29-40

**Covered!**

- **Justification—You’re COVERED!**

Rom 4:24-25 It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

**Covered!**

- **Adoption—You’re COVERED!**

- **Covenant Love—You’re COVERED!**

Rom 5:8-10

- **Inheritance—You’re COVERED!**

1 Peter 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

**Covered!**

**Covered!**

- **'Life in the Soul'—You’re COVERED! ...1Pet 1:3, Jn 3:3, Jn 20:22 “he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’**

- **'Life empowerment and enablement'—You’re COVERED! ...Acts 1:8 “and you shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come you”; Php 2:13 “for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”**

- **Guidance and Wisdom in this life—You’re COVERED! ...Jn 14:16-17, 26 “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with your forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth ...26 he will teach you all things and bring to**

*your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (the Holy Spirit/the Helper will lead you into the truth); 1Cor 2:6ff*

- **Comfort** (Holy Spirit is the comforter) ...**Inner Strength** (Eph 3) ...**Fruitful Character** (Gal 5:22)
- **Health & Miracles** ...Mark 16, 1Cor 12
- **A New Body without Sickness** ...2Cor 5, Rev 21
- **In This Life/World**
  - **Provision guaranteed by your Heavenly Father** (Matt 6:25, 32-33 “...do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. ...your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”)
  - **Mission & Purpose that Matters** (Rom 1, Matt 28:18-19)
  - **Spiritual Protection** ...Eph 6:11 “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil”, 1Pet 5
  - **Belonging** ...  
Ephesians 2:13-19

**Covered!**

**Covered!**

**- So, What Does Easter Bring to Our Lives that Keeps it on the Front Page of Our Existence? ...That's quite a list!**

*You can have 'food, shelter, social engagement, work, physical pleasures, health, and well-being' in some form—without Easter Weekend! ...But You Can't Have Any of These Benefits without Easter Weekend!*

**How Do You Get in on This Awesome Assurance Coverage?**

- Repentance (Acts 17:30) & Faith (Rom 1:5)