

The Leadership Academy at Hope Chapel Kealapono  
**Easter 2026: "Permission to be Happy!"**  
**1 Corinthians 15:1-8 & John 15:9-11**  
Pastor John Honold  
April 4, 2026

Summary: This weekend we celebrate the greatest anniversary in the history of the world -- The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Unwrap and receive the gifts of forever forgiveness, abundant & eternal life, and permission to be happy!

- I. **The Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ [1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Romans 1:16-17]**
- II. **The Cross: Jesus REALLY Died [1 Corinthians 15:3-4a]**
  - A. **God Loves Us** [John 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:8]
  - B. **God is Righteous.** Dictionaries define righteousness as "behavior that is morally justifiable or right." Such behavior is characterized by accepted standards of morality, justice, virtue, or uprightness. The Bible's standard of human righteousness is God's own perfection in every attribute, every attitude, every behavior, and every word.
  - C. **No Human is Righteous** [Romans 3:10-20]
  - D. **God is Just.** The penalty of sin is eternal death [Romans 6:23]
  - E. **Empathy, Love, Righteousness, and Justice** [Romans 3:23-26]
  - F. **God has a plan.** His Son Jesus – sinless – paid for the sins of all who believe in Him on the Cross. We can become righteous [2 Corinthians 5:21]
  - G. **It is our free choice to receive and believe in Jesus** [Romans 10:8-13]
  - H. **We become a Child of God, Forever Forgiven**  
[Romans 8:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Tim 1:7]
  - I. **Nothing Can Separate us from the Love of God** [Romans 8:31-39]
- III. **AND The Resurrection: Jesus REALLY Rose from the Dead [1 Corinthians 15:4b-8]**
  - A. **Demonstrates that Jesus was indeed the Perfect Son of God that takes away the sin of the world [Ro 1:4; John 1:29]**
  - B. **The Foundation Stone on which the Church is Built** [Acts 4:33; 1 Cor 15:12-19]
  - C. **He Physically Rose from the Dead** [Luke 24:36-39; Matt 28:9; Luke 24:41-43]
  - D. **The Disciples Unwavering Witness** [1 Cor 15:5-8]; the New Testament of the Bible
  - E. **The Gift of Eternal Life, The Abundant Life, and the Plans of God**  
[John 3:16-17; John 10:10; John 15:1-17; Jeremiah 29:11]
  - F. **Experienced by the Power of God** [2 Timothy 1:7] and a release from eternal fear  
[1 John 4:18]

IV. Permission to be Happy [John 15:11]

A. Joy is a Promised Benefit of the Kingdom of God, experienced on this side of Heaven

[Romans 14:17]

B. Jesus points the way to joy, a divine quality of character that is possessed and given only by God. It is rooted in relationship with Him, not in earthly or material things [Hebrews 1:9]

C. Joy is derived from the confidence that the price of dying to our will holds the inevitable certainty of eventually realizing the triumph of His [Heb 12:2; Ps 37:4]

D. For Jesus, bringing sons and daughters into fellowship with the Father was His delight, though The Cross was the means to that eventual joy [Hebrews 2:10]

E. “He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied” [Isaiah 53:11]

F. “The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength” [Nehemiah 8:10]

V. **NEXT WEEK: NO Leadership Academy** [Team Hope meets at 930am at Makakilo Community Park to pray over the City of Kapolei]

[The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People begins April 18]