

Lesson # 8 -- The Greatness of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Introduction

- A. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a historical event of great evidential value -- and the benefits produced by that event are overwhelming in their greatness.
- B. We must keep in mind that the Resurrection was and is a triumphant victory for the Lord Jesus. He accomplished what He had come to do. Satan was defeated, sin was overcome, death was vanquished, Hell was thwarted, the elect were redeemed, and God was glorified.
- C. In the Resurrection we see the Lord Jesus carrying on the work He had come to do. In His post-resurrection ministry He continued to reach out to His people in compassion with truth and grace.

I. The Instruction in the Post-Resurrection Appearances of the Lord Jesus.

- A. His appearance to the woman at the tomb -- He wanted them to know He was grateful for their years of service and asked them to represent Him. Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 23:55-24:9
- B. His appearance to Mary Magdalene -- He wanted her to have a correct relationship with Him. John 20:11-18.
- C. His appearance to the disciples on the way to Emmaus -- He wanted them to understand His Resurrection and be a witness to the truth He was alive. Luke 24:13-33
- D. His appearance to Peter alone -- He wanted their fellowship restored. Mark 16:7; Luke 24:34; I Cor. 15:6
- E. His appearance to the disciples in the Upper Room -- He wanted them to have His peace and to be commissioned. John 20:19-23
- F. His appearance to the disciples and Thomas -- He wanted them to have clear-cut evidence that He was alive and to believe. John 20:24-29
- G. His appearance to the disciples in Galilee -- He wanted them to understand what it meant to represent Him. Matt. 28:16-20; John 21:1-23
- H. His appearance to the disciples at Jerusalem -- He wanted to instruct them concerning their work for Him. Acts 1:3-11

II. The Message of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- A. The Resurrection was and is an affirmation of the deity of Jesus Christ.

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Rom. 1:4

- B. The Resurrection was and is a vindication of prophecy and the teaching of the Lord Jesus.

For David speaketh concerning him . . . Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. Acts 2:25-27,31

- C. The Resurrection was and is a testimony that the Crucifixion was sufficient and accepted by the Father.

And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. But now Christ is risen from the dead and became the firstfruits of them that slept. I Cor. 15:14,17,20

- D. The Resurrection was and is a provision for the salvation of all who believe on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I Peter 1:3

- E. The Resurrection was and is a source of holiness for the believer's daily life.

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Rom. 6:4

- F. The Resurrection was and is a reminder that the Christian has a High Priest in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Wherefore he is able to also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25

- G. The Resurrection was and is the assurance that the Christian will also be resurrected from the grave.

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept . . . O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be unto God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:20,55-57

H. The Resurrection was and is a testimony to the future judgment of the non-Christian.

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained, whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he raised him from the dead. Acts 17:31

III. The Triumphant Power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A. The New Birth is Produced by the Triumphant Power of the Resurrection.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten (new birth) us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.  
I Peter 1:3

Comment: Because of the terrible effects of sin we are born into this world alienated from and dead to God. In the resurrection the Lord Jesus provided a spiritual re-birth for all who believe. A complete reversal has come to pass in our life. Wherein once we were hopelessly bound in a state of death -- now we know the meaning of a "living hope."

B. Justification is Produced by the Triumphant Power of the Resurrection.

But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption. Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. Acts 13:37-39

Comment: Through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, of which the resurrection is the triumph, every need related to salvation has been met. Paul speaks of forgiveness (of our sins) and justification (the imputation of righteousness) to illustrate his point. Every believer has each benefit 100 per cent.

C. Assurance is Produced by the Triumphant Power of the Resurrection.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? . . . Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us. Rom. 8:31-34

Comment: The answer to the Apostle's questions is found in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus of which the resurrection is a major triumph. It is also a declaration that the work of the crucifixion was sufficient for every need found in the believer's life. If we have questions related to assurance -- we need look at the great truths of the resurrection.

D. Sanctification is Produced by the Triumphant Power of the Resurrection.

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Rom. 6:4

Comment: The Lord Jesus identified Himself with us in the Incarnation so we could be identified with Him in His Crucifixion and Resurrection. We died in Him and were resurrected in Him. The value of these great deeds are ours today. We can live in newness of life.

E. Fruitfulness is Produced by the Triumphant Power of the Resurrection.

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ, that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. Rom. 7:4

Comment: The emphasis in Paul's illustration regarding marriage is that the believer has been set free from all that would hinder his union with Christ (like a marriage) and living a fruitful life. The Resurrection has made this freedom and fruitfulness possible.

F. Perseverance is Produced by the Triumphant Power of the Resurrection.

And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death. But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:24,25

Comment: In contrast to the Old Testament priests, who in their death passed the priesthood to others, the Lord Jesus -- through the resurrection -- lives forever. He can save us to the uttermost in that He lives forever to serve as our High Priest. We are kept saved by His life in Heaven.

G. Glorification is Produced by the Triumphant Power of the Resurrection.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept . . . But every man in his own order. Christ the firstfruits, afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. I Cor. 15:20,23

Comment: The Old Testament offering of the firstfruits was to signify thanksgiving to God for the harvest. The divine promise was to the effect if the offering was made the harvest it symbolized would be safely gathered. In this passage the Lord Jesus is said, through His resurrection, to be the firstfruits of all believers. His presence in Heaven is our guarantee that we will also get there, and know resurrection and glorification.