

Toward Understanding Ourselves as a Christian

Lesson # 8 -- Understanding Ourselves from the Perspective of the Resurrection

Introduction

- A. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a historical event of great evidential value. And, the benefits produced by that event are overwhelming.
- 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. The Resurrection is an important foundation stone in the divine plan of redemption. Many aspects of salvation are rooted in that event.

I. The Evidence for the Resurrection.

A. The type of evidence found in the Resurrection.

1. Many skeptics have said the evidence is only psychological or "spiritual." However, that is not the case. In the day it happened, and following, there was scientific evidence, as well as historical, literary, and that of personal testimony.
2. The scientific evidence would revolve around the fact of the empty tomb, the testimony of the graveclothes, and the personal appearances of the Savior. Many have scoffed at this and said we need more than written records to attest a scientific event. However, that is all we have of the eclipse of the sun.

B. An enumeration of the evidence for the Resurrection.

1. The empty tomb. Matt 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:3-6; John 20:1,2
2. The graveclothes. John 20:3-8
3. The post-resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ. Matt 28:8-20; Mark 16:7-14; Luke 24:13-53; John 20:11-21:4; Acts 1:9-12; I Cor 15:5-8
4. The change in the lives of the Disciples. John 20:19; Acts 2:14-20; 4:1-21
5. The observance of the Lord's Day. Actss 20:7; I Cor 16:1,2; Rev 1:10
6. The existence of the Early Church. Acts 1:22;2:32; 3:15; 5:32; 10:39,41; 13:31
7. The testimony of the Post-Apostolic Church. (See Ante-Nicene Fathers)

## II. The Characteristics of the Resurrection.

- A. All those enumerated in the last lesson would apply here also: Divine-human, personal, historical, redemptive, consummative, covenantal, revelatory, and representative.
- B. There are four of these that are particularly important.
  - 1. It was a historical Resurrection: Acts 17:31; 26:26; Rom 1:4; I Cor 15:14-20
  - 2. It was a physical Resurrection. Luke 24:39,40; John 20:24-29; Acts 1:3
  - 3. It was a dynamic Resurrection. Acts 13:37-39; Rom 6:4; 7:4; 8:31-34; I Peter 1:3; I Cor 15:20,23
  - 4. It was a representative Resurrection. Rom 4:25; Eph 2:5,6

## III. The Meaning of the Resurrection.

- A. It was an affirmation of the deity of Jesus Christ. Rom 1:4
- B. It was a testimony that the Crucifixion was sufficient. I Cor 15:14-17
- C. It was a vindication of prophecy and the teaching of the Lord Jesus. Acts 2:25-32 (See Psalm 16:8-11); Matt 12:38-40
- D. It was a declaration to the judgment of non-Christians. Acts 17:31
- E. It was a confirmation to the truthfulness of Christianity. Rom 1:4; I Cor 15:14-20
- F. It was a the entrance of Jesus Christ into His work as High Priest. Acts 2:25-32
- G. It was an important part of the message of the Early Church. Acts 1:22; 2:22-36; 3:12-19; 5:29-32; 10:34-43; 13:26-41
- H. It was and is a necessary confession of salvation. Rom 10:9,10
- I. It was a provision for the salvation, sanctification, and resurrection of the believer. Rom 4:25; 6:4-11 I Cor 15:20; I Peter 1:3; Rev 1:18

## IV. The Provision and Responsibility of the Resurrection.

- A. The provision of life for our death. Eph 2:5,6; Col 2:13; I Peter 1:3
- B. The provision of righteousness for our unrighteousness. Rom 4:25; 5:16-19; 8:2-4
- C. The provision of resurrection for our physical death. I Cor 15:53-57; II Cor 4:4
- D. The responsibility of the Resurrection.
  - 1. To accept and believe in the Resurrection and its benefits. Luke 24:13-27
  - 2. To accept and practice the power of the Resurrection in living above sin, both within and without. Rom 6:1-22; 8:11-13; Col 3:1-17

Recommended Assignment (Preparation for the Next Lesson)

Monday: Read Acts 1:1-11. What "message" did the Angels give of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus ? \_\_\_\_\_

What was there in the Ascension that explains how He will come again? \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday: Read Rom 8:1-39. What does the Ascension "say" regarding the work of the Lord Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday: Read Hebrews 6:17-20. How does the Ascension relate to Jesus Christ being our Forerunner? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain what it means for the Savior to be our Forerunner. \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday: Read Psalm 110 and Hebrews 7:1-28. Why is the Lord Jesus related to the O.T. Melchisedec? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the Ascension fit into that picture? \_\_\_\_\_

Friday: Read Hebrews 10:9-14. What does the Ascension "say" regarding the salvation of the believer? \_\_\_\_\_

Find two more references in Hebrews regarding the Lord Jesus being seated in Heaven.

\_\_\_\_\_ Why is this so important in this book? \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday: Read Colossians 3:1-5. What responsibility do we have that is based on the truth of the Ascension? \_\_\_\_\_