

The Meaning of the Resurrection

Introduction

- A. Christianity is built over an empty tomb. Jesus Christ died and arose from the dead.
- B. In the day the Resurrection occurred there was an abundance of scientific evidence for the event – the empty tomb, the gravecloths, the ten appearances of Jesus Christ and the changed lives of the disciples.
- C. It is important that we not only recognize that the Resurrection happened but we must understand what it means and then practice that great truth.

I. The Resurrection was and is an affirmation of the deity of Jesus Christ, Rom.1:4.

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the Resurrection from the dead.

Observation: It is quite easy to deny the deity of Jesus Christ -- but how can one account for the evidence of the Resurrection?

II. The Resurrection was and is a vindication of prophecy and the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ, Acts 2:25-27,31.

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.

Observation: This quotation is taken from Psalm 16:8-11 which was written about 1000 years before Jesus Christ was born.

III. The Resurrection was and is a testimony that the Crucifixion was sufficient and accepted by the Father, I Cor. 15:14,17,20.

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.

Observation: If the sacrifice of Jesus Christ were not sufficient for the forgiveness of sins, He would never have been resurrected.

IV. The Resurrection was and is a provision for the salvation of all those who believe, I Peter 1:3.

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.

Observation: Because of sin man is dead to God. In the Resurrection God has provided eternal life for those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

V. The Resurrection was and is a source of holiness for the believer's daily life, Romans 6:4.

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.

Observation: The power of the Resurrection is the basis for freedom from sin and the source of power to live for God.

VI. The Resurrection was and is a reminder that the Christian has a High Priest in the Person of Jesus Christ, Hebrews 7:25.

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.

Observation: It is a great comfort to know that Jesus Christ has assumed all responsibility for us. He is praying for us.

VII. The Resurrection was and is the assurance that the Christian will also be resurrected from the grave, I Cor. 15:20,55-57.

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 to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Observation: God is not only interested in our soul but also in our body. The Christian will be resurrected and glorified.

VIII. The Resurrection was and is a testimony to the future judgment of the non-Christian, Acts 17:31.

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 hath raised Him from the dead.

Observation: The non-Christian does not like to think of living somewhere forever. The Resurrection reminds them that death does not end all and that a judgment is ahead fear them.

Conclusion

- A. What should our response be to such a great event as the Resurrection? We must surrender ourselves to God and choose to live our daily lives in harmony with His will.
- B. The Resurrection really, happened – we may not live as though Jesus Christ did not arise from the grave.

Victor M. Matthews