

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Introduction

- A. Today we commemorate one of the greatest events in history – the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- B. Christianity is unique in that it is based upon historical-spiritual events that are open to verification. True belief is not related to myth or legend.
- C. The events on that resurrection morning.

There was a great earthquake. An angel rolls the stone away from the tomb. The Roman Soldiers become very afraid and run away. The women come to embalm the body of the Lord Jesus.

They see the stone rolled away.
The women find the grave empty.
Mary Magdalene runs to tell Peter and John.
The women see angels and are told by them:

Fear ye not, for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.
He is not here, for he is risen, as he said.
Come, see the place where the Lord lay, and go quickly
and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead.
Matthew 28:5,6

The women leave and are met by the Lord Jesus.

Peter and John hurry to the tomb, see the graveclothes and empty tomb.

The Lord Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene.

The Lord Jesus appears to two disciples on the way to Emmaus.
The Lord Jesus appears to Peter.

On that evening the Lord Jesus appears to the disciples and said to them – "Peace be unto you."

- D. During the forty days before the Ascension the Lord Jesus appeared some ten times. He appeared to the disciples as a group at least five times and at one of these times there was at least five hundred believers present.
- E. It is difficult to imagine the impact of the Resurrection on these early believers. It was unexpected. When it happened, however, they remembered how often the Lord Jesus spoke of it. And they soon realized how the Resurrection was related to all the other truths they had been taught.

I. What Does the Resurrection Teach Regarding the Lord Jesus?

A. The Resurrection was historical evidence of His deity.

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

Comment: The word "declared" means "to demonstrate," "to set forth with distinction." Only God could go down into death and conquer it.

B. The Resurrection was historical evidence that His work was completed.

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. Acts 13:37,38

Comment: There are two aspects to this truth. First the Resurrection was the work of the Father accepting and approving of His work of redemption. Secondly, it was proof that sin had been dealt with.

II. What Does the Resurrection Teach Regarding the Non-Christian?

A. The Resurrection is historical evidence that there is life after death.

Because he (God) 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

Comment: The Resurrection is proof to every non-Christian that death does not end all – everyone will live somewhere for ever.

B. The Resurrection is historical evidence that there is a future judgment.

Because he (God) 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

Comment: The reason the Lord Jesus commanded all men to repent – is because there is a judgment for every non-Christian after death. The picture of this judgment is found in Revelation 20:11-15.

III. What Does the Resurrection Teach Regarding the Christian?

A. The Resurrection is historical evidence that the fullness of grace is ours.

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection Phil. 3:10

Comment: The Resurrection stands in Scripture as the source of spiritual life.

B. The Resurrection is historical evidence that the believer will be resurrected.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. I Corinthians 15:20

Comment: His Resurrection is the pledge of ours.