

The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ

(Shorter Version)

Introduction

- A. Christianity is built over an empty tomb! It is a historical fact -- Jesus Christ died and was resurrected from the dead. Believing in the Resurrection is not one option among many.
- B. In the day the Resurrection occurred there was an abundance of scientific evidence for the event: the empty tomb, the grave clothes, the ten appearances of the Lord Jesus, and the change in the Disciples.

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom 10:9

- C. As we go through this lesson we must keep in mind what the Resurrection must have meant to the Lord Jesus. How different He and His life was from before and during the Crucifixion. Try to imagine how He must have felt.

I. The Resurrection Was and Is A Divine Demonstration of Momentous Truths.

- A. It was a demonstration (proof, evidence) of the deity of the Lord Jesus.

And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom 1:4

Questions: To what truths do the following words refer: "the Spirit of holiness," "declared with power," and "Jesus Christ our Lord" -- in the context of the Resurrection?

- B. It was a demonstration (proof, evidence) that the Savior's death was sufficient.

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. I Cor 15:17,20

Questions: What would it have meant if the Savior were not raised? What does "firstfruits" mean in regard to the Lord Jesus and in regard to us as believers?

- C. It was a demonstration (proof, evidence) that there is salvation for all who will believe.

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Rom 8:32-34

Questions: What is meant by the words: "along with him," "give us all things," "Who is he that condemns," and "for us"?

II. The Resurrection Was and Is a Demonstration of a Powerful Redemptive Provision.

A. It was and is a powerful redemptive provision for an entirely new life -- a new birth.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I Peter 1:3

Comment: Many times we wish we could start an important area of our life again. The new birth is like that. It is a spiritual cleansing from what alienation from God meant. We can now interpret life and the future in the context of "a living hope."

B. It was and is a powerful redemptive provision for forgiveness and justification.

But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. Acts 13:37-39

Comment: Both aspects of salvation are traced back to the Resurrection in these verses. In forgiveness we are set free from the guilt of our sin and in justification we are declared righteous and free from all the demands of the holy law of God.

C. It was and is a powerful redemptive provision for holiness in our daily life.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Rom 6:4

Comment: Here we see that we spiritually died in and with the Lord Jesus and that we were raised in and with Him as well. As a result all the value of these great deeds are the daily resource of every believer. We need not live in bondage to any sin!

D. It was and is a powerful redemptive provision for the assurance of salvation.

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Rom 8:33,34

Comment: Many of our family and friends could, if they desired, bring many charges against us in regard to imperfections or even sins. However, the Resurrection testifies that these charges do not separate us from Him -- in that our risen Savior made every provision for our forgiveness and acceptance. And now, He lives in Heaven to pray for us. This is assurance!

Conclusion: How should we respond on a daily basis to this great event of the Resurrection? We may not live as though Jesus Christ were still in the grave!