

The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ

(Expanded Version)

Introduction

- A. Christianity is built over an empty tomb! It is a historical fact -- Jesus Christ died and was resurrected from the dead.
- 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.
- C. The message of the Resurrection is inseparably related to all the basic truths of the Christian life. Believing in the resurrected Savior is not one option among many for the Christian.

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

- D. 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: in the context of the Resurrection?

<i>"the Spirit of holiness,"</i>	The Holy Spirit Who raised Him from the dead.
<i>"declared with power,"</i>	The Resurrection proved His deity powerfully.
<i>"Jesus Christ our Lord"</i>	The Resurrection proved Him to be the Old Testament Messiah (Christ) and Lord (the Living God).

- 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? He was an impostor, what He said was not true, and Christianity in the NT sense was a hoax.

What does "firstfruits" mean in regard to the Lord Jesus and in regard to us as believers?
Firstfruits in the OT was a sacrifice of thanksgiving. God said "If you give it I'll make sure you get all the crop in. The firstfruit thus represented the whole crop. So the Lord Jesus represented all of us. Because He was resurrected -- all believers will be resurrected.

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," **Refers to truth that all benefits are given "with Him."**
"give us all things," **All the benefits of Christ's redeeming work.**
"Who is he that condemns," **Referring to anyone (even Satan) who would accuse a believer that he/she was not forgiven.**
"for us"? **Referring to all believers.**

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.

(Both forgiveness and justification are provided in the Resurrection)

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!

We must respond to God by submission and faith to receive the power of the Resurrection when tempted to sin and be self-centered. To live a life characterized by even some grudges, self-centeredness, gossip, and laziness -- is to contradict the meaning and provision of the Resurrection. If we live that way we will lose reward when we stand before God.

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