

Why Your Should Care About Resurrection?

Various Scriptures

BI: Easter is more than a religious holiday. It is a celebration of Christ's triumph over death and sin so that we might be reconciled to God.

Matthew 27:62–66

⁶² Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I *am to* rise again.’ ⁶⁴ “Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go, make it *as* secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶ And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

Matthew 28:1–15

¹ Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. ² And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. ³ And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶ “He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷ “Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.” ⁸ And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples.

John 20:2–10

² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” ³ So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; but he did not go in. ⁶ And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not understand the

Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

John 20:11–18

¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and *that* He had said these things to her.

Matthew 28:11-15

¹¹ Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’” ¹⁴ “And if this should come to the governor’s ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, *and is* to this day.

Luke 24:13–35

¹³ And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

¹⁷ And He said to them, “What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ One *of them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, “Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?” ¹⁹ And He said to them, “What things?” And they said to Him, “The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the

sentence of death, and crucified Him. ²¹ “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

²² “But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. ²⁴ “Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.”

²⁵ And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. ²⁸ And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged Him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?” ³³ And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ They *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be to you.” ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; ⁴³ and He took it and ate *it* before them.

John 20:21–25

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ “If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I

see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

John 20:26–3

²⁶ After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace *be* with you.” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed.” ³⁰ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Matthew 28:16–20

¹⁶The eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some were doubtful. ¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:4–12

Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” *He said*, “you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” ⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Pray:

A. The historical account of the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, leaves us breathless.

- B. It was for our sakes that you crushed your Son. And it was to glorify yourself in our eternal salvation that you raised Him from the dead.
- C. It is because of the resurrection that the church meets on Sunday.
- D. It is because of the resurrection that believers have great hope even in the most dire of personal circumstances.
- E. And it is because of the resurrection that sinners can be made whole.
- F. Oh Holy Spirit, come now and make dead hearts live.
- G. Empower your word to accomplish its task this morning. For we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of all human history. It is the most important event that has ever happened anywhere at any time since the creation. And it should be important to you. Why? Let me take just a few minutes to explain.

I. The resurrection of Jesus Christ should be important to you because God exists, and all are accountable to Him.

1. The Psalmist wrote: “The earth is the Lord’s and all it contains; the world, and those who dwell in it.” The fact is, every person on the planet instinctively knows that God exists and that we are accountable to Him. We see the evidence of His existence everywhere we look. The sun, moon and stars tell us what we already know. Plants, animals, mountains, canyons, and oceans tell us what we already know. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
2. The apostle Paul told the philosophers in Athens what they already knew, that “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things.”
3. The fact is, you owe your very existence to God. He made you. He preserves your life. And one day you will stand before Him to give an account of how you lived.

II. The second reason you should care about the resurrection is because of something else you already know instinctively; namely, that you are a sinner.

1. Why is that a problem? It is a problem because God is holy and therefore can only enter into relationship with people who are holy. We desperately need a personal relationship with God, but we can’t have it because we are sinners.
2. Everyone in this room is guilty of breaking God’s law. The apostle John explains that “Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4). So you see, we were created to live in relationship to God, but the fact is we love sin more than God and that’s made obvious by the fact that we sin every day.

3. Now I suspect that some of you don't believe you are a law-breaker. You believe that you're pretty good and that God will accept you for being pretty good. Well let's think about that.

A. Have you ever taken something that doesn't belong to you? Sure. Everyone has. But what do we call a person who takes things that don't belong to them? A thief. But God's law says "You shall not steal."

B. Have you ever used God's name or the name of Jesus Christ to swear or cuss? God's law says, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."

C. Have you ever looked at a woman or a man with lust in your heart? Jesus explains that when you look at another person with lust you have committed adultery with that person in your heart. And God's law says, "You shall not commit adultery."

D. Have you ever lied to another person? God's law says, "You shall not lie." So you see, when you think about it from God's perspective we are all lying, thieving, adulterers who have taken his name in vain. And that is only four of the ten commandments!

4. You see, **we are all lawbreakers**. Every one of us will one day have to stand before the sovereign God who created us and give an account of our sin. Some of you are thinking right now that surely God will look at you on that day and see all the good that you have done and say that because of the good things you have done that He will not punish you for your crimes against His holy law.

5. But let's think about that. If someone breaks into your house one night, beats you up and steals a bunch of stuff, what do you hope will happen to him? You will hope he gets caught and put in jail. And suppose he does get caught and is brought before the judge for trial. And suppose the judge looks at him and says, "Listen, what you did was a terrible thing. But I see here that you've done some good things in your life too. So because of the good you have done, I am going to overlook your crime." Would you say that's a good judge or a bad judge? He would be a wicked judge who needs to be thrown out! The criminal deserves justice for his crime regardless of anything else he has done.

6. Listen. God is a good judge. He is a holy judge. Therefore, He cannot overlook our sin against His law. And that puts everyone of us in a terrible situation.

III. The third reason you should care about the resurrection is because of something we learn from Scripture; namely, that sinners deserve God's wrath. Whether we believe it or not, that is our situation before God.

1. Paul explains in Romans that "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Rom. 1:18). You want to know why there is so much chaos in the world? It is because of God's wrath.

God is actually punishing the world by letting us have what our sinful heart's desire and leaving us to experience the natural consequences of that sin.

2. God's word tells us that this situation is one that will have eternal consequences. Unless God does something to change our situation, we will spend eternity separated from God in a place He calls hell—no matter how small we believe our sin really is.

3. I read in the O.T. book of Proverbs yesterday these words: "People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house." My friend, that is the nature of law. It demands justice to be served when a crime is committed no matter how good a person has otherwise been. "If the thief is caught, the law will require all the goods of his house." And here's the thing... everyone gets caught. God sees all and knows all. He is omniscient and omnipresent and there is no place man can hide where God cannot and does not see him.

4. Nevertheless, it is not God's desire for you to suffer the wrath you deserve. Do you get it! He loves you! He desires reconciliation. He created you to glorify Him. He created you to live in fellowship with Him. But what can be done? Our situation is hopeless!

3. God is sovereign. We are sinners. Our situation is hopeless. But that is not the end of the story.

IV. The fourth reason you should care about the resurrection is because it proves God sent a Savior.

1. Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:3-4 "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

2. You see, my friend, the bad news about your situation is really, really bad! If God doesn't do something to change your situation you will face judgment. You will be found guilty, and you will be punished in hell. But the good news of Easter is that your situation can change! You don't have to experience the eternal wrath you deserve. He loves you more than you possibly comprehend!

3. How can you know that God loves you? Well, think about what He did for you. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." In other words, God treated Jesus as if He lived your wicked, sinful, guilt-ridden, shameful life so that he could treat you as if you had lived Jesus' perfect, holy, eternally blameless life.

4. That's why Jesus died on the cross. "In this manner God loved the world: He gave His Son, His only one, so that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

5. You see, my friend? God loves you and He has provided a way for you to be forgiven of every

sin you have ever committed and to be reconciled to God forever. There is no need to be afraid of Him anymore! There's no need to continue hiding your sin and shame. Jesus bore it all on the cross. He paid for your sin. He died the death you deserved so you can live.

6. How do we know that he did that? Because of the resurrection. This is why the apostle Peter said: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope *through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*" (1 Peter 1:3).

7. The resurrection of Jesus proves that God has paid for all your sin in the death of Christ. He died the death you deserved and then rose to life again to prove that He is worthy of all your faith and hope for eternal life.

8. You may say, "Okay, I believe that God is sovereign and that I will have to give an account of my life before Him some day. I believe that I am a sinner and that my situation is hopeless. I also believe that God has sent a Savior in the person of Jesus Christ who died and rose again so that I can be forgiven and reconciled to God. What is left for me to do?"

V. The final reason you should care about the resurrection is that it secures for you a better Master.

1. **You are what you are because you serve whom you serve.** Apart from the miraculous work of the H.S. in changing a sinner's heart, all men serve themselves. According to the Bible, we all serve the "desires of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). We have all believed the world's lie that the best thing a person can do is "follow your heart." "Be true to yourself!" **But this is disastrous advice!** Our desires are not wise. Our desires are not holy. Our desires are not loving and sacrificial. Our desires are selfish and deceitful.

2. A person who views himself as his own master is a walking disaster, for himself and for those closest to him. Listening to your own advice is what got you into the difficult situation you're in today. It's time to make a break with the old master. It's time to switch loyalties. It's time to repent.

3. What does that look like? We need look no further than to the apostle Paul. In the world's eyes he was about as successful, fortunate, and privileged as a young man can be. Listen to how he describes his life. He says, (Phil. 3:4-6)

"If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

4. The question is, "What is your confidence in?" Before Paul met Jesus Christ that day on the Damascus road, Paul's confidence was in the power and talents of his flesh (4), his ethnicity, his tribe, his law-keeping, his status as a Pharisee (5), his zeal for God and his self-righteousness (6). But notice how all of that changed.

5. In verse seven he says (7–11):

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

6. The question is, in what or in whom is your confidence? What are you living for? It's great that you are religious, but you can be religious and still live for self. Paul did! You can be religious and be ruled by your own desires, ambitions, and cravings. It's time to switch loyalties. Its time turn your back on your old master and embrace Christ as your Lord. Christianity is not just something to believe, it's a Person to follow.

7. And the amazing thing is that when you turn your back on your old master, it doesn't feel like you're giving up anything. To the contrary, this is how Jesus describes it, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and *sells all that he has* and buys that field" (Mat. 13:44).

8. In other words, the privilege of knowing Christ and being ruled by Him is such a treasure that it's worth giving up everything you have. Face it. Your way of living doesn't work. Being the master of your own fate is a failing proposition. That's why your life is such a mess. That's why you are still plagued with guilt and shame. It's time to give it up.

9. It's time to switch loyalties. Stop trusting in yourself; your own philosophies, your own opinions, your own desires. It's time to embrace Jesus Christ for what He truly is... He is Lord.

10. Today, this very moment, God is inviting you to receive this treasure. He is calling you to come to Him as one who is "poor in spirit", who says "God, the only thing I have to offer you is my sin. I have no goodness. I have no righteousness. My only hope is that you will cleanse me and accept me in Christ. God, I repent. I surrender the right to rule my own life. From this moment forward I am your servant. Please accept me. Please forgive me. Please change me. Please make me your child. Thank you for the cross of Christ and for His resurrection by which I am saved. From this moment on, I am completely Yours.

11. Prayer: