

“The Resurrection and the Gospel”
Romans 10:9
(Preached at Trinity, Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The Christian church has two days that we celebrate above all others – two events that changed the world.
 - A. The first is the celebration of the birth of Christ—Christmas.

The One who was above and outside time entered into time—God with us.
The eternal became temporal.
The infinite became finite
The One who is Creator of all things, the source of all life, was born as a human child.

 1. This is a mystery that is beyond our comprehension. The Eternal God became man. And yet, He remained God. God demonstrated His love for His people.
 2. Most significant is why He came. Jesus was sent forth according to the eternal Covenant of Redemption to save His people from their sins. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Jesus came to die as Redeemer and then to return to His throne of glory.

B. The second day that we celebrate is also of immeasurable significance. It occurred three days after His crucifixion. On this day the Christ who was crucified, died, and buried in the tomb was raised from the dead in splendor and glory. This day reminds us that we serve a risen Savior. It reminds us that He fully accomplished the purpose for which He came. It reminds us of forgiveness and reconciliation. This is the day we are celebrating today – Easter Sunday.
 2. From the beginning, the resurrection has come under attack. Many have tried to cover it up.
Matthew 28:12-15 NAU - "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.*"
 1. The resurrection is difficult for fallen man to receive. It is contrary to natural order. From our human experience people die and are buried. They do not return from the grave. Death is final. And most people fail to see any significance in the claim that someone came back from the dead.

2. For the early church the resurrection was an indisputable fact. They witnessed it.
 - a. He appeared first to the women and to the Apostles. They saw Him.
Matthew 28:5-9 NAU - "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. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him."
 - b. Many others saw the risen Christ
1 Corinthians 15:3-6 NAU - "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;"
 - c. The Apostles were willing to suffer and die because they were convinced that Jesus was alive.
3. The resurrection was an essential aspect of Apostolic preaching. They preached Christ crucified and raised from the dead.
Acts 3:14-15 NAU - "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ but put to death the Prince of life, *the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.*"
3. But what is the significance of the resurrection?
 Paul taught that the message of the resurrection is essential to the Gospel and that belief in the resurrection is essential to saving faith.
1 Corinthians 15:1-4 NAU - "Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,"
4. Paul taught that there were two essential elements to saving faith. They are not added to saving faith, nor are they to be seen as actions that of themselves merit salvation. But genuine faith cannot be separated from them.
Romans 10:9 NAU - "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;"
 A. First of all, "Jesus as Lord" is an essential aspect of saving faith.
 Confessing with the lips accompanies faith in the heart.
 Receiving Christ as Savior demands receiving Him as Lord and King. It demands recognizing the divinity of Christ. He is Lord and Creator of all things. To come to Christ demands a willingness to follow Him absolutely.

- B. The second element of saving faith is belief in the resurrection.

Romans 10:9 NAU - "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;"

By "heart" Paul is referring to the entirety of our being, our mind and will, our love and emotion. It means to be fully convinced with all assurance and conviction.

- 5. But why is it essential that we believe that God raised Christ from the dead? It is far more than just believing the fact of the resurrection. It includes this but it means far more. It points to all the that the resurrection reveals to us.

- I. First of all, before there could be a resurrection there had to be a death.

- A. The death of Christ was not just any death.

- 1. It was a life given. Jesus gave His life.

John 10:17-18 NAU - "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

- 2. The death of Christ was by Divine purpose and Divine initiative.

Jesus laid down His life to accomplish the reason for which He came – to save His people from their sins. The resurrection was an essential part of this work.

- 3. The death of Christ was an atoning sacrifice.

- a. This sacrifice was a marvelous work of substitution
- b. Jesus went to the cross – innocent and spotless but He became sin. He took upon Himself our sin and carried our sins to the cross.
- c. Jesus shed His blood to satisfy Divine justice. The shedding of His blood was essential to our redemption.

- B. Blood is to be seen as the life-force of man

- 1. We can see this in God's covenant with Noah

Genesis 9:4-6 NAU - "Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood. ⁵ "Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. ⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man."

- 2. God made a covenant with Adam in the garden

- a. God promised life to Adam upon his obedience and death upon disobedience
- b. When Adam sinned he forfeited his life. The sentence of death was upon him.

- 3. God didn't immediately take his life – He showed him mercy provided a substitute.

Genesis 3:21 NAU - "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them."

- a. These animal skins represented the shedding of blood as a substitute. God provided both a covering and a substitute.
- b. This was a type of Christ who shed His blood and offers Himself as a covering for our sin—life for life.

4. These sacrifices were performed over and over in the Old Testament
 - a. An animal was killed and its blood was poured out upon the altar as a substitute for the sins of the people.
 - b. The mercy seat in the Tabernacle was a place of propitiation—the place where God's wrath was appeased.
 - c. The sprinkling of blood on the altar was a testimony that God would allow a substitute – the shedding of another's blood
5. These sacrifices were never permanent.
 - a. Sacrifices were offered continually.
 - b. They were never meant to be permanent but to point to that which is permanent

Hebrews 9:11-14 NAU - "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; ¹² and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

- C. With the New Covenant God ended once for all the Old Covenant sacrifices
 1. God still holds His Law before men
 - a. He still requires absolute obedience
 - b. Men today are still absolutely unable to meet God's demands

Romans 3:23 NAU - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

 - c. All have failed to meet the Law's demand for perfection. All are guilty. All will face eternal judgment.
 2. God has provided a permanent solution. Jesus Christ shed His own blood.
 - a. The New Covenant is also sealed with blood.
As the last supper Jesus declared the sealing of the covenant

Luke 22:20 NAU - "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

 - b. Without the shedding of blood there can be no reconciliation, no forgiveness.
 - c. It is only through the blood of Christ that atonement is made permanent – God's wrath turned away

Romans 5:8-9 NAU - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."

- D. The Resurrection proves that the sacrifice of Christ was accepted by the Father.
It is the validation.

It proved that His sacrifice satisfied Divine justice - God raised Him up

1. Before Jesus was crucified He prayed:

John 17:4-5 NAU - "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."

With the resurrection it is as if God the Father is saying, "Come My Son. Return to the glory we shared for all eternity."

2. Jesus came to accomplish a particular work—to save His people from their sins

- a. The Resurrection proves that it was accomplished
- b. Jesus boldly made the proclamation from the Cross
"It is finished"
- c. If Jesus was still in the grave what assurance would we have that He accomplished anything? He would have died like all men and would have been held captive by the grave like all men.
- d. But the grave could not hold Him.

Acts 2:24 NAU - "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."

Conclusion:

1. The resurrection testifies to the finished work of Christ as our Redeemer.
As Jesus hung upon the cross and shed His blood God turned His wrath upon Him.
 - a. All of our sin was imputed or transferred to Christ. All our sin that had kindled God's anger and condemnation was now upon Jesus.
 - b. God then poured out His wrath upon Christ
 - c. As God's righteous wrath was poured out upon Christ it was removed from us – The death of Christ was a propitiation—it was an appeasement or satisfaction of God's perfect justice. God turned away His anger from us by the substitutionary atonement of Christ.
2. The resurrection is the summation of Jesus' atonement. The resurrection is God's seal of approval upon the sacrifice of Christ.
3. Salvation demands that we trust that the death of Christ was sufficient, that it fully satisfied God's Divine justice. The resurrection testifies to this truth. Believing in the resurrection testifies to our full confidence on the finished work of Christ.
4. Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior? Him alone? Not your goodness, not your works – nothing but Jesus Christ.