

The Importance of Christ's Resurrection - 04/21/19

TEXT – 1 Cor. 15:17ff

INTRO –The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the foundation of the Christian system If there was no resurrection, Christianity is a hoax.

1 Cor. 15:14 *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. But Christ's resurrection is the "best-attested fact in human history."* Well over three hundred verses are concerned with the subject of Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament. **This being the case, just what is the significance of Jesus' resurrection?**

Benjamin Franklin penned his own epitaph. The Body of B. Franklin, Printer Like the Cover of an old Book Its contents torn out, And stript of its Lettering and Gilding, Lies here, Food for Worms, But the Work shall not be wholly lost: For it will, as he believ'd, Appear once more In a new & more perfect Edition, Corrected and amended by the Author.

I. The Resurrection Affirms That Jesus Christ Is The Son Of God

Rom 1:4-6 *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead:** 5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: 6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:*

As Vice President, George Bush represented the U.S. at the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Brezhnev's widow stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed. Then, just as the soldiers touched the lid, she reached down and made the sign of the cross on her husband's chest. There in the center of atheistic power, the wife of the man who had run it all hoped that her husband was wrong. She hoped that there was another life, and that that life was best represented by Jesus who died on the cross, and that the same Jesus might yet have mercy on her husband.

II. The Resurrection Assures Us Forgiveness Of Our Sins

1 Cor. 15:17-22 *And **if Christ be not raised**, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 **But now is Christ risen from the dead**, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Rom 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead**, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

III. The Resurrection Asserts God Is In Control

1 Jn 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

1 Th 4:14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

Rev 1:17-18 *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, **Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.***

IV. The Resurrection Affirms To Us Death Does Not End All

1 Cor. 15:20-23 *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also **the resurrection of the dead.** 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

1 Co 15:3-4 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that **he rose again the third day** according to the scriptures:*

V. The Resurrection Promises Us Victory Over Satan

Heb 2:14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that **through death** he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

Eph 1:20-22 *Which he wrought in Christ, **when he raised him from the dead**, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,*

VI. The Resurrection Affords us Victory Over The Flesh

The resurrection of Jesus should change how we view life. The truth is that the resurrection of Jesus should impact every decision we make We measure our time by the life of Jesus. **Php 3:10-12** *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

Eph 2:5-6 *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

Rom 6:1-8 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

VII. The Resurrection Provides Us Hope Of Christs Return

In the book of Revelation, Jesus is depicted as a lamb that had been slain, but was standing again (5:6). This same Lord was “the lion of the tribe of Judah” that had overcome his foes (5:5). Christians too will overcome as a result of the Lamb’s sacrifice and victory over death (cf. Revelation 12:11).

1Th 4:14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

1 Pe 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

CONCL – Php 3:10-11 *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

It is because Christ has been raised from the dead that we have assurance or proof that God has completed our salvation. Because God vindicated Jesus by raising him from the dead, we know that his promises of forgiveness of sins are true, that we have been saved, rescued, delivered. Several times the resurrection is referred to as the basis of our confidence in salvation: