

4-19-20

Sermon: The Importance of the Resurrection

Scripture: Acts 2:22-32, CTW PS16

Hymns: 689, 519

Theme: We have been called "people of the resurrection." Have you ever thought about the many facets of what this means for your daily life, or is it just a story that you hear about each Easter? Now that Easter is over, have you put the things of the resurrection away in a box to be kept for next year? Or, have you found the ways to incorporate them into your year-round life?

Today I have prepared a little different message for you. I have put in reference to the passages which form the Bible truth about the resurrection...so that you can write them down if you wish, and conduct your own in-home Bible study later.

First, in **1 Cor 15: 3-8**, Paul found it necessary to lay out the facts of all that Jesus had done because the people had forgotten. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to Paul as well.

I. The Resurrection is Important To the Cause of Christ.

A. The Resurrection IS Important To Christ Because It Is A Fulfilment OF PROPHECY.

In **Acts 2:22-32** Peter gave a great summary to the crowd who had gathered on the day the Holy Spirit was sent to forever change the lives of all who would come to belief in Christ. He began with a focus on what the Prophet Joel said in Joel 2:28-32, that Christ's resurrection was prophesied because it was crucial to the redemptive plan of God, and that prophesy had come true. What was true for the people then, is still true for us. Through

our faith in the resurrection we are saved. Jesus is the embodiment of prophecy come true.

B. The Resurrection of Christ is important because it establishes the lordship of Christ.

Matthew 28:18 when Jesus had risen from the dead, he said to his disciples: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, now therefore go...

In **Acts 2:32-36** Peter confirms this:

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

In **Philippians 2:6-11** Paul says that since Christ emptied himself and was obedient unto death, THEREFORE God has highly exalted him and given him a name above every name.

Jesus rising from the dead means that he is Lord. We are saved by believing and confessing this. This is something that we should **rely upon** as strength every day of our lives.

C. The resurrection is important because it enabled Christ to bruise the head of Satan.

Remember God's declaration in **Gen. 3:15** "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will bruise your head, and you will strike his heel."

1 John 3:8 says For this purpose the son of man was made manifest...to destroy the works of the evil one.

The Resurrection allowed Christ to overcome death and Satan.

In **Revelation 1:18** Christ confirms this: "I am the alpha and omega. I hold the keys of death and hell." Christ is in control of every sphere.

He has the power to release from death those who receive his gift of eternal life

II. The Resurrection Is Important To The Church.

A. The resurrection is connected with all believers' entrance into the church.

Paul says in **Romans 6:3-6** Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
4 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.

Through this new life we enter into the Body of Christ. We become partakers of his life.

B. The resurrection assures the church of victory.

We are part of a kingdom that never will be destroyed or overcome. Repeat that to yourselves often as you face an ever-changing world where things are destroyed daily.

When Jesus said in **Matt. 16:18** upon this rock I will build my church...he was making reference to the prophesy in **Daniel 2:44-45** "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces."

We also must note the confirmation in **Hebrews 12:28**

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and **so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."**

People sometimes get hung up on styles of worship and voice their preferences...but we need to remember that it is God's preference we should be concerned about. He says that acceptable worship must be with reverence and awe!

III. The Resurrection is Personally Important For Each Christian.

A. Christ's resurrection, means that Christ was raised for our justification. We must remember that to be justified with God, we rely on Christ to bring us in line with Him.

The resurrection is inextricably linked to our salvation.

We believe because of the Word, and the Holy Spirit who brings us into a correct understanding of it...**THE TRUTH!**

Today, as a result of our faith in Christ, He is alive in us...in you...in me....

We can say like Paul: It's no longer I who lives, but Christ in me!

Romans 10:9 declares, "...if you believe in your heart that Jesus rose from the dead, you will be saved."

And in **1 Corinthians 15:17**, he said, "If Christ has not been raised, **your faith is worthless**; you are still in your sins."

Why is the resurrection said to be responsible for our sins being taken away?

The resurrection of Jesus is the reward to us because of his sacrifice. And if the reward was not given, it would be because the sacrifice was deficient. And if the sacrifice is deficient, we are still in our sins.

In **Hebrews 13:20-21a** it says, "Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, 21 equip you in every good thing to do His will."

Christ was raised through his own blood!

His sacrifice was perfect. And his sacrifice so perfectly secured his covenant promises for his people that God the Father rewarded him with resurrection to carry those promises into eternal force.

Isaiah 53:10 The Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days (that's the resurrection!), and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

B. Christ's Resurrection Assures Christians Of Their Own Resurrection.

Paul reminds us in 1 Cor. 15:20-24 that Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

For further affirmation on how this works, we should also see **1 Cor. 15:50-56** 50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

.....Christ is the down payment, the pledge, or guarantee of the Christian’s own resurrection.

C. A third thing the resurrection does for the Christian is that it gives us a living hope - which provides comfort.

Peter reminds all of us in **1 Pet. 1: 3-5** 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, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

In the world, things do perish, spoil and fade away, so using worldly logic to understand the things of heaven will never work.

D. The Resurrection Gives The Christian Power.

Philippians 3:10 I want to know Christ... and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. Because of this power Paul says: I can do all things through Christ. This power is to perform miracles...to save souls, to change lives...To preach with boldness and courage. This power is to overcome the flesh. To love those who persecute us.

John Bunyan wrote a poem:

Run, John, run, the **law** commands
But gives us neither feet nor hands,
Far better news the **gospel** brings:
It bids us fly and gives us wings.

The gospel bids us to fly—it commands us to forgive those who have wronged us. But it also gives us wings to do what it commands. The gospel gives us power.

IV. Finally, We Have to Look At What The Resurrection Means To A Non-Christian.

Acts 17 29-31 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Ecclesiastes 12:14 reminds us that God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Daniel 12: 1-2 Talks about the turmoil of the end times. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. 2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

One day we will all stand before God to give an account.

If you are not ready for that, you can be. Read the Scriptures and recommit your life to the whole truth of the resurrection.

The Holy Spirit will give you a fresh start. A new beginning.

Amen? Let Us Pray!