

The Resurrection of Jesus

1 Cor. 15:17

- And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

- It would be hard to exaggerate the importance of the resurrection of Jesus

I. Why the resurrection of Jesus is so⁴ important

- 1. The truthfulness of Jesus is at stake

Mt. 16:21

- From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day

Mt. 17:23

- And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceedingly sorry.

- 2. The truthfulness of the N.T. is at stake
- Of the 8 known writers of the N.T., 6 writers specifically teach the resurrection of Jesus – the other writers imply it

- 15 of the 27 books of the N.T. specifically teach the resurrection of Jesus and the other books imply it

- 3. The truthfulness of the O.T. is at stake

Ps. 16:10

- “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”
- David wrote this over 1000 years before the crucifixion

- David was a prophet and foretold the resurrection of Jesus

- 4. Without the resurrection the gospel would not be good news
- Without it our preaching is vain, our faith is vain, Paul and others were false witnesses, and we are yet in our sins (1 Cor. 15:)

Rom. 6:3-4 (baptism would have no¹³ meaning without the resurrection)

- Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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.

1 Pet. 3:21

- The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

- Without the resurrection those who have died in Christ have perished – we are the most pitiable people on earth
- We must believe in His resurrection in order to be saved

Rom. 10:9

- 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

II. Other evidences for the resurrection of Jesus

- 1. There were sufficient witnesses
- They were honest, competent and there was a large number of them (well over 500)
- The first century enemies of Christ did not disprove the witnesses

- All anyone had to do was to produce the body and Christianity would have been dead

- 2. The change the resurrection brought in the apostles
- “From fearful, trembling men of ‘little faith’ to strong, fearless, militant soldiers of the cross”

- What about the change in Saul of Tarsus
- The conversion of Saul is one of the great evidences that Christianity is indeed true

- The empty tomb cries out for the resurrection of Jesus
- The OT prophesied of the resurrection
- Jesus plainly predicted it

- The disciples witnessed it
- The inspired writers recorded it
- The early Christians believed it and taught it far and wide

- Without the resurrection, there is no gospel, no salvation, no eternal life

Acts 2:32

- This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses

- III. Jesus' resurrection gives meaning to a Christian's faith

1. In eating the Lord's Supper every²⁶ Sunday

- In partaking we remember the Lord's death "until he comes"
- If Jesus were not risen – we would have no hope of his coming again

1 Cor. 11:26

- For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

2. Every time we pray “in Jesus name”

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- When we pray in his name we are relying on a risen Savior – Jesus – to mediate in our behalf

1 Tim. 2:5

- For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

- If Jesus were not risen, our prayers would not be heard

3. In preaching the gospel and baptizing the lost

- These are only important because Jesus is not dead, but alive

Rom. 6:4

- 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.

Conclusion

- Christians need to continually keep in mind how important Jesus' resurrection is to our faith
- The resurrection occurred some 2000 years ago – but that does not lessen the importance of His victory over death!