

The Resurrection
March 14, 2021
by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Why are we here today?

I know we are here to worship the Lord, but why Sunday as opposed to some other day?

Today is not the weekly Sabbath; that was yesterday.

Did God change the Sabbath to Sunday? No; nowhere in the scriptures did God make any such change.

What then is the reason we come here to worship every week on Sunday, which is the first day of the week?

Why? Because worship on the first day of the week is the example set for us by the first ever Church of Jesus Christ as the pattern we are to follow.

What is so significant about the first day of the week? Just listen:

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the **first day of the week**, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Mark 16:2 And very early in the morning the **first day of the week**, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

Mark 16:9 Now when *Jesus* was risen early the **first day of the week**, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Luke 24:1 Now upon the **first day of the week**, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.

John 20:1 The **first day of the week** cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

The next thing we read about the **first day of the week** is that now, after the resurrection, the disciples now meet to observe the Lord's Supper and to hear the Word of God and to bring their tithes and offerings all on Sunday, the first day of the week.

Acts 20:7 And upon the **first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the **first day of the week** let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Real Churches of the Lord, all of which have descended from that very first one, have followed that example down to this very day.

We are here today, as we are every Sunday, to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We literally depend on the resurrection for every aspect of why we are here; even why we exist as a Church.

Without the literal historical fact of the genuine bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, being here today would be nothing more than a social gathering of friends.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 15:1-23

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 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:

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

11 Therefore whether *it were* I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Back then there were some who denied the facts and all the witnesses; as many do also today.

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also **vain**.

Vain = Mataios mat'-ah-yos

From the base of [G3155](#); **empty**, that is, (literally) **profitless**, or (specifically) an *idol*: - vain, vanity.

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

17 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.

If there was no genuine resurrection, then it is all a big lie: all the apostles, all the witnesses, are unified liars in perfect agreement; many if not most of which suffered a horrible death rather than denounce this greatest of all conspiracies; thus making us and all we do in Jesus' name a complete and utter waste of time.

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.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Truly we depend on the resurrection as being a real and genuine and literal historical fact!

I. There is nothing more important than Jesus' resurrection.

A. Many believe the most important thing in life is to be a good person.

1. Actually, being a good person is not even a theme in the Bible at all.

2. There are no "good people".

3. Romans 3:10-12

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

4. **Ecclesiastes 7:20** For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

5. **Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all.

6. **Mark 10:18** And Jesus said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.**

7. Not only are you not good, there is nothing you can ever do that will make you good.

8. Not only are you not good; since you know all your secrets, you know better than anyone except God, that you are not good.

B. We are all sinners; outside the resurrection there is no other hope.

1. You cannot be good.

2. You certainly cannot become righteous.

3. You cannot deserve God's mercy or His grace.

4. But you can be forgiven.

5. Jesus' resurrection is the proof!

II. This is why the resurrection of Jesus Christ is Satan's primary target.

A. From the very moment Jesus died for our sins, Satan has created one outright lie after another.

John 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

1. One of Satan's beginning efforts of deception to deny the resurrection was the Jews' bribery of the soldiers who guarded the tomb;

2. Matthew 28:12-15

12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

3. Following the resurrection, Satan authored many false gospels, like the so-called 'Gospel of Barnabas'.

4. This narrative claimed that Judas was actually the one crucified.

B. Lots of other blatant lies have been fabricated down through history.

1. Another widely published, albeit ridiculous account is that Jesus was one of twins who were separated at birth; and thus, after the crucifixion, the second twin showed up, declaring himself to be Jesus.

2. Satan uses the Koran to discredit Jesus' resurrection:

3. The Koran on the Crucifixion —And their saying: Surely we have killed the Messiah, Isa son of Marium, the apostle of Allah; and they did not kill him nor did they crucify him, but it appeared to them so (like Isa) and most surely those who differ therein are only in a doubt about it; they have no knowledge respecting it, but only follow a conjecture, and they killed him not for sure.¶ Sura 4:157

4. Some of Satan's methods are less blatant; they are very subtle, like with Eve in the garden; they are sly and hard for the simple to detect.

5. **2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

III. For those who know too much to buy the lie, Satan attempts to create the appearance of discrepancy.

A. One such example is Good Friday.

1. **Matthew 12:40** For as Jonas was **three days and three nights** in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.

2. We know that Jesus was crucified on the eve of the Feast of Unleavened Bread; one of several '**high days**' which are special Sabbaths of the Lord; this one lasting seven days.

3. **Leviticus 23:5** In the **fourteenth day** of the first month at even *is* the LORD'S **passover**.

4. **Leviticus 23:6** And on the **fifteenth day** of the same month *is* the **feast of unleavened bread** unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

5. John tells us this:

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (**for that sabbath day was an high day**,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

6. Also in

Matthew 28:1 In the **end of the sabbath**, as it began to dawn toward the **first day of the week**, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

We find that the women came to the tomb at dawn in the **end of the Sabbath**.

7. The weekly Sabbath had already ended the night before at 6:00 PM, but the **High Day Sabbath**, which lasted seven days, although now winding down, was still going on.

B. Why does a little detail like this matter?

1. How many hours are in three days and three nights? That's right, 72 hours.

2. How many hours from Good Friday at 6:00 pm to Saturday at 6:00 pm? That's right, 24 hours.

3. How many hours from Saturday at 6:00 pm until Sunday morning at 6:00 am? That's right, 12 hours.

4. 24 and 12 = what? That's right! 36 hours.

5. Anybody with a knowledge of simple arithmetic knows you can't put 72 hours between Friday at 6:00 pm and Sunday at dawn.

6. What, then, is the obvious conclusion of the unlearned? "Well, I guess there really are contradictions and mistakes in the Bible. It was written by men, so there must be mistakes."

7. Satan, again, deceives the simple.

8. This is but one of many subtle ways Satan tries to create the idea of discrepancies in the minds of the unlearned.

9. If you can't trust the Bible, you can't trust the gospel of which Jesus' resurrection is central...if you can't trust in Jesus' resurrection...guess what else you can't do? ...you can't go to heaven!

Conclusion:

Satan is our enemy. He is a master of many things:

He uses deception; he is a liar and the father of it.

He has created the illusion of discrepancy; most of the world now believes there are mistakes and contradictions in the Bible.

Many of you thought the same thing until we showed you the facts and evidence.

He is also a master of distraction.

We who are saved are a lost cause to Satan.

The wicked one cannot take what we have in Christ; so, what does he do?

He tries to distract us from reaching anyone else.

Lighthouse Baptist Church is alive and flourishing and will continue to be as long as we keep **the Gospel; Jesus' death, burial and resurrection** at the forefront of everything we do!

Just so you know:

There won't be any bunnies taking the spot-light off the resurrection!