

THE GLORIES OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

(An Easter Message)

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:41-45

INTRODUCTION: The resurrection of Jesus Christ out from among the dead marks the greatest watershed moment of all history. It is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. It was the focus of Christ's teaching to His disciples (Mark 8:31). It was predicted in the Old Testament (Job 19:25-27; Ps. 16:9-11). John Locke, the 17th century philosopher whose ideas greatly influenced our Declaration of Independence, wrote: "Our Savior's resurrection is truly of great importance in Christianity, so great that His being or not being the Messiah stands or falls with it."

Christ's resurrection is well-attested. Thomas actually touched the resurrection body of Christ. Over 500 eye-witnesses saw Jesus between His resurrection and His ascension. The original eleven apostles were transformed by the resurrection into bold witnesses. Since then honest men – like Gilbert West and Lord Lyttleton – who set out to disprove Christ's resurrection, have been compelled to admit that they were won over by the evidence for it.

OUTLINE: The implications of Christ's bodily resurrection are great and glorious! What are they?

- I. **Christ is God.**
(Rom. 1:4; Acts 2:32,36)
- II. **Sin and death are defeated.**
(2 Tim. 1:9,10; Heb. 2:14,15; 1 Cor. 15:54,55; Rev. 20:14; 21:4).
- III. **We can know we are justified.**
(Rom. 4:24,25; 1 Pet. 1:3; 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - A. Our sin demanded Christ's death.
 - B. Christ's resurrection proved that God was satisfied.
- IV. **Christ is able to save us completely.**
(Heb. 5:5-9; 7:16,25)
- V. **Believers have amazing power at their disposal.**
(Eph. 1:19,20; John 14:12)
- VI. **Believers are guaranteed glorification.**
(John 14:19; 1 Cor. 15:20-23, 52; Phil. 3:20-21)
 - A. Christ is the "firstfruits"; we are the harvest.
 - B. Both living and dead Christians will receive glorified bodies when Jesus comes again (1 Thess. 4:14,16).

C. We have the “earnest of the Spirit” (2 Cor. 5:1-5; Acts 2:32,33).

CONCLUSION: The blessed implications of Christ’s glorious resurrection constitute an incentive both to be **saved** and to **serve**. How can we be discouraged, despairing, or defeated when our resurrected Savior has proven and promised so much?