

Rom. 6:8-11 “Never to Die Again”

For the Children: Doctors are busy at the moment preparing medicine to prevent people from getting the coronavirus. Meanwhile, people are suggesting all sorts of ways to prevent or cure it. Doctors test these claims by getting lots of people to try the different “cures,” to see if they really do work. People who don’t believe in God also want to see proof that Jesus did rise from the dead. The proof is actually the fact that the OT said He would and that the NT says He did. How we live today isn’t a proof of the truth like God’s Word. But if we keep on living as though Jesus’ death and resurrection has no effect on us, others might wonder if knowing the Lord makes any difference. They might wonder if He even exists. **Questions:** Can we know for sure that Jesus died and rose again? What does His resurrection tell us about Him? What does it tell us about the effect He has on us?

Introduction:

First Point: The Certainty of the Resurrection

- 1) How We Know What We Know: We “know” that Christ has been raised from the dead – the language implies once-for-all, not a repeated cycle. It implies a real physical death and a real, physical resurrection. These are presented as certain facts. However, we know the truth first and foremost from God’s Word and by the work of His Spirit. His Word foretold these events in detail. It describes their fulfillment in detail and gives a detailed theological explanation of why this was necessary and what it accomplished. Secondary, human witnesses are also referred to. The apostles also had signs and wonders to attest to the legitimacy of their message.
- 2) Knowledge and Belief: We also “believe” that we shall live with Christ.” “Knowing” and “believing” are both certain, based upon Word and Spirit -even when the belief concerns things yet to happen. The Christian hope is a certain hope.

Second Point: What the Resurrection Implies about Christ

- 1) Once for All: Both v. 10 and the tenses used to speak of Christ’s death and resurrection, indicate something once-for-all. He is therefore “never to die again” (v. 9). See also Rev. 1:18. There is great stability and security in this, that Christ’s intercession for us from heaven cannot be interrupted.
- 2) The Victor over Death: Because the Messiah came to represent sinners, He had to be placed, in a sense, under the power of sin – treated as guilty and receiving the sentence of death and hell because of us. In that sense, death was for a time “master over Him” in His human nature. But now that He has completely paid that debt and penalty, neither sin nor death can affect Him any more. See Acts 2;24. His resurrection shows that He is victorious over Satan, sin and death.
- 3) Living to God: Now that He is free of that burden that came from representing sinners, Christ is free to live to God. He lived to God while on this earth, but then He was burdened by our sin and by living in a fallen world with a body affected by the curse on this world. These profound truths are tied up with other great truths, such as the doctrines of the Trinity and Christ’s 2 natures.

Third Point: What the Resurrection Implies about Us

- 1) In and With Him: The “us” referred to here is those who are united to Christ, who have died “with Him” (v. 8) and are alive to God “in Him” (v. 11). Those who have Him as their Head and Representative are regarded by God as if we had died to sin and risen to life (imputation). God also works within us so that these truths affect our daily life (impartation).
- 2) Dead to Sin: One of these affects is that we are now dead to sin in Christ – we are freed from its guilt and power. Death is also no longer master over us. Death is now only a gateway into the heavenly life.
- 3) Alive to God: The fact that Christ lives to God also means that we can begin to live to Him, free from the guilt and power of sin – spiritual life. In the next life, we will be free from all effects of sin, able to enjoy this life eternally. This is where we must also demonstrate the reality of the death and resurrection of Christ – in our changed lives. See Col. 3:1-4.

Conclusion:

