

CFBC Resurrection Sunday 2020

“Upon a life I did not live, upon a death I did not die, I risk my whole eternity on the resurrection.”

Charles Spurgeon

1 Corinthians 15...a central passage on the Resurrection

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 and that he was buried; and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures; 5 and that he appeared to Cephas; then to the twelve; 6 then he appeared to above five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain until now, but some are fallen asleep;

Paul summarized the Gospel by pointing to two historical facts...

- 1. The death of Christ for our sins**
- 2. His resurrection**

Each fact of the Gospel is verified by two supporting realities

- 1. He was buried**
- 2. He was seen by Peter (Cephas) and over 500 other witnesses**

Note verse 4..(Christ) was buried; and that he has been raised on the third day *according to the scriptures*

The fulfillment of OT Scriptures

Consider Jesus' post-resurrection appearance to the disciples on the road to Emmaus...Luke 24...cites OT (“beginning from Moses and from the prophets”)

25And he said unto them, O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26Behooved it not the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory? 27And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

The Resurrection as predicted in the OT...let's look at 3 passages

- **Genesis 3:15...The *Proto-evangelium* (“first Gospel”)**

14And Jehovah God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, cursed art thou above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:
15and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Note-

The serpent shall strike and not conquer...but be conquered

Salvation effected through suffering...but not final defeat

“Imagine, for a moment, the reaction of Hell to the death of Christ. Jesus was bound with the bands of death. What celebration and joy! God was defeated! Vengeance was the Devil’s. But they reckoned without the wisdom of God. For Christ could not be held down by the bands of death. In fact through death He was paralyzing the one who had the power of death, and He was setting His people free (Heb. 2:14-15). What seemed to be defeat was actually victory. The Resurrection morning was Hell’s gloomiest day. Satan saw the wisdom of God and tasted defeat.”

Sinclair Ferguson

- **Psalm 16...A Michtam of David**

This psalm is directly messianic.

Psalm 16:10...For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol;
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Psalm 16 is not about David, who died, was buried, and his body returned to dust (Acts 2:29; 13:36). Thus the Scriptures revealed the resurrection of Christ centuries before He was born.

Psalm 16 verse 10 is a reference to the resurrection from the dead...

David wrote Psalm 16 as a prophet of the Lord, knowing that God would raise Christ from the dead to reign forever in fulfillment of God’s covenant with David (1 Chron. 17:11–12; Acts 2:30).

Setting of 1 Chron 17...

1And it came to pass, when David dwelt in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of Jehovah dwelleth under curtains. 2And Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thy heart; for God is with thee.

3And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, 4Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith Jehovah, Thou shalt not build me a house to dwell in:

1 Chron 17:11-15

I tell you that the Lord will build a house for you. 11 When your days are fulfilled that you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up one of your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. 13 I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. 14 But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever. 15 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

Acts 2...Peter's sermon at Pentecost

Acts 2:31...29Brethren, I may say unto you freely of the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us unto this day. 30Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would set one upon his throne; 31he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Paul at Pisidian Antioch in Acts 13

13Now Paul and his company set sail from Paphos, and came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departed from them and returned to Jerusalem. 14But they, passing through from Perga, came to Antioch of Pisidia; and they went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. 15And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on. 16And Paul stood up, and beckoning with the hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, hearken...

Verses 22,23...Of David's seed, God (according to His promise) raises up unto Israel a Savior, Jesus

26Brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us is the word of this salvation sent forth. 27For they that dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him . 28And though they found no cause of death in him , yet asked they of Pilate that he should be slain. 29And when they had fulfilled all things that were written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. 30But God raised him from the dead: 31and he was seen for many days of them that came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses unto the people. 32And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers, 33that God hath fulfilled the same unto our children, in that he raised up Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. 34And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he hath spoken on this wise, I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David. 35Because he saith also in another psalm , Thou wilt not give Thy Holy One to see corruption. 36For David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: 37but he whom God raised up saw no corruption.

- **Isaiah 53...**

9And they made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death; although he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

10Yet it pleased Jehovah to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his' seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of Jehovah shall prosper in his hand.

Literally...His grave was assigned to be with the wicked but with (He was) a rich man in His death

“With the disposition of the corpse of Jesus, the rules were broken. Under normal judicial circumstances, the body of a crucified criminal was discarded by the state, being thrown without ceremony into gehenna, the city garbage dump outside Jerusalem. There the body was incinerated, being subject to a pagan form of cremation, robbed of the dignity of traditional Jewish burial.

The fires of gehenna burned incessantly as a necessary measure of public health to rid the city of its refuse. Gehenna served Jesus as an apt metaphor for hell, a place where the flames are never extinguished and the worm does not die.

Pilate made an exception in the case of Jesus...he was moved by a mighty Providence to ensure fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah that Jesus would make His grave with the rich or of God's promise that He would not let His Holy One see corruption. The body of Christ was anointed with spices and wrapped in fine linen to be laid in the tomb belonging to the patrician, Joseph of Arimathea."

R C Sproul

53:10 He shall see His seed...He shall prolong His days...speaks of Jesus' resurrection

Before Christ came, the Father promised to raise Him from the dead

Jesus' own predictions of His own betrayal, death and resurrection...

John 2:18-22...

13And the passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14And he found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: 15and he made a scourge of cords, and cast all out of the temple, both the sheep and the oxen; and he poured out the changers money, and overthrew their tables; 16and to them that sold the doves he said, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house a house of merchandise. 17His disciples remembered that it was written, Zeal for thy house shall eat me up. 18The Jews therefore answered and said unto him, What sign showest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? 19Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20The Jews therefore said, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou raise it up in three days? 21But he spake of the temple of his body. 22When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he spake this; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

The resurrection was to be THE SIGN that demonstrated Jesus as the one He claimed to be...

Matthew 12:39-41

The Sign of Jonah
(Luke 11:29-32)

38Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, Teacher, we would see a sign from thee. 39But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given it but the sign of Jonah the prophet: 40for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41The men of Nineveh shall stand up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah is here.

Especially during Jesus' final 6 months of His public ministry, He emphasized the necessity of His upcoming crucifixion as well as the triumph of the resurrection

Matthew 16:21...

Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection
(Mark 8:31-33; Luke 9:21-22)

21From that time began Jesus to show unto his disciples, that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up. 22And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall never be unto thee. 23But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art a stumbling-block unto me: for thou mindest not the things of God, but the things of men.

Jesus' predictions were common knowledge..prompted the religious leaders to ask Pilate to secure the tomb

Matthew 27:62-64

62Now on the morrow, which is the day after the Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees were gathered together unto Pilate, 63saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said while he was yet alive, After three days I rise again. 64Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest haply his disciples come and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: and the last error will be worse than the first. 65Pilate said unto them, Ye have a guard: go, make it as sure as ye can. 66So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, the guard being with them.

“The dead body of Jesus could not be found. There are four possible ways to account for this...

- 1. His foes stole the body. If they did (and they never claimed to have done so), they surely would have produced the body to stop the successful spread of the Christian faith in the very city where the crucifixion occurred. But they could not produce it.**
- 2. His friends stole the body. This was an early rumor (Matthew 28:11-15). Is it probable? Could they have overcome the guards at the tomb? More important, would they have begun to preach with such authority that Jesus was raised, knowing that he was not? Would they have risked their lives and accepted beatings for something they knew was a fraud?**
- 3. Jesus was not dead, but only unconscious when they laid him in the tomb. He awoke, removed the stone, overcame the soldiers, and vanished from history after a few meetings with his disciples in which he convinced them he was risen from the dead. Even the foes of Jesus did not try this line. He was obviously dead. The Romans saw to that. The stone could not be moved by one man from within who had just been stabbed in the side by a spear and spent six hours nailed to a cross.**
- 4. God raised Jesus from the dead. This is what He said would happen. It is what the disciples said did happen.”**

John Piper

The Gospel is inseparably linked to the Resurrection...

“Christianity does not hold the Resurrection to be one among many tenets of belief. Without faith in the Resurrection there would be no Christianity at all. The Christian church would never have begun; the Jesus-movement would have fizzled out like a damp squib with His execution. Christianity stands or falls with the truth of the Resurrection. Once disprove it, and you have disposed of Christianity.”

Michael Green

“If Christ were not raised from the dead, then He is morally unable to save. Jesus told of His future death and bodily resurrection on numerous occasions prior to it happening, and those predictions were lies if not fulfilled. Deception negates His larger message. A deceiver could not be God, or a sinless Savior. As sinful, He would not be able to satisfy the just requirements of the Father for a substitute on behalf of sinful people. If He were not raised, you should not only refuse to listen to Him; He could not save you even if you did.”

Jim Eliff

Romans 1:4

1Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2which he promised afore through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead; even Jesus Christ our Lord,

Declared...not constituted or “made”

Incarnation...and Davidic Covenant...Romans 1:3

2 Samuel 7...

12When thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, that shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

Resurrection...Romans 1:4

All Christ's claims were vindicated by the resurrection from the dead

cf Romans 4:25...

Setting...Abraham's faith in promises of God

...being fully assured that what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22Wherefore also it was reckoned unto him for righteousness. 23Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was reckoned unto him; 24but for our sake also, unto whom it shall be reckoned, who believe on him that raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25who was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification.

Christ's resurrection as the surety of His people shows that His sacrifice for sin was accepted by the Father and powerful to take away sins.

What if there was no resurrection?

“If Christ is not risen from the dead, the long course of God's redemptive acts to save his people ends in a dead-end street, in a tomb. If the resurrection of Christ is not reality, then we have no assurance that God is the *living* God, for death has the last word. Faith is futile because the object of that faith has not vindicated himself as the Lord of life. Christian faith is then incarcerated in the tomb along with the final and highest self-revelation of God in Christ-- if Christ is indeed dead.”

George Eldon Ladd

The apostle Paul spelled out the clear and irrefutable consequences of a “resurrectionless” Christianity...

Look at 1 Corinthians 15...verses 13-19

12Now if Christ is preached that he hath been raised from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13But if there is no resurrection of the dead, neither hath Christ been raised 14and if Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching vain, your faith also is vain.

15Yea, we are found false witnesses of God; because we witnessed of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead are not raised. 16For if the dead are not raised, neither hath Christ been raised: 17and if Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable.

If Christ is not raised, he reasoned, we are left with the following list of conclusions:

1. **Our preaching is futile.**
2. **Our faith is in vain.**
3. **We have misrepresented God.**
4. **We are still in our sins.**
5. **Our loved ones who have died have perished.**
6. **If all we have is hope, we are of all men most to be pitied.**

The resurrection of Jesus is the *sine qua non* of the Christian faith. Take away the Resurrection and you take away Christianity.

R C Sproul

R C Sproul on the Resurrection of Christ and Christianity...

Here is the watershed of human history where the misery of the race is transformed into grandeur. Here the proclamation of the early church, was born with the cry “He is risen.”

The New Testament proclaims the Resurrection as sober historical fact... Authentic Christianity stands or falls with the space/time event of Jesus’ resurrection...One can certainly be civilized without affirming the Resurrection, but one cannot then be a Christian in the biblical sense. The person who claims to be a Christian while denying the Resurrection speaks with a forked tongue. From such turn away.

The resurrection of Jesus is radical in the original sense of the word. It touches the *radix*, the “root” of the Christian faith. Without it Christianity becomes just another religion designed to titillate our moral senses with platitudes of human wisdom.

Puritan William Perkins on the Resurrection...its necessity and its comfort

Its Necessity...

Christ's resurrection was necessary for three reasons.

First, His resurrection evidenced a complete victory over death. For believers, the resurrection confirms that Christ's whole obedience was a work both of perfect satisfaction, destroying death, and of a meritorious nature, earning life.

Second, Christ's resurrection was demanded by virtue of His divine nature as the Son of God. He is the Author of life itself; for this reason it was neither fitting nor possible for Him to be overcome by death. Thus, it was imperative that Christ rise from death to life.

Third, Christ's resurrection confirmed that His priestly work consisted of two parts. One was to make satisfaction for sin by sacrificing Himself on the cross. The other was to apply the virtue of this sacrifice to every believer. Therefore, Christ rose to perform this second part of His priesthood for His people.

Its Comfort...

The resurrection is of immeasurable comfort to the child of God. These comforts are three.

First, Christ's resurrection effects the justification of all who believe in Him (Rom. 4:25). Indeed, life was the very wage He was sent to earn (Isa. 53:17); therefore, having been reconciled by His death, we shall much more be saved by His life (Rom. 5:10).

Second, the resurrection of Christ is the notable means by which God works sanctification (Rom. 6:4-5; 1 Peter 1:3). As Christ by the power of His Godhead freed His manhood from death and from the guilt of our sins, so does Christ free the believer from the corruption of nature in which he lies dead—all so that he may live unto God (Rom. 14:8).

Third, the resurrection of Christ discloses the church's resurrection. He that raised Christ from the dead "shall also quicken your mortal bodies" (Rom. 8:11).

This is why Christ is called the firstfruits of the dead (1 Cor. 15:20). His resurrection is a pledge and assurance of the resurrection of the church. He is the head of His church; therefore, all His members must follow after Christ in their time. The godly rise by the power of Christ their Redeemer, who raises them up so that they may be partakers of the benefits of His death (Heb. 3:14)—to enjoy both in body and soul the kingdom of heaven that He has so dearly bought for them. The godly rise as Christ by the virtue of Christ's own resurrection. They rise, as He did, unto eternal glory.

Adapted from William Perkins, "Christ's Resurrection," in An Exposition of the Symbole or Creed of the Apostles

"We need not wonder that so much importance is attached to our Lord's resurrection. It is the seal and headstone of the great work of redemption, which He came to do. It is the crowning proof that He has paid the debt which He undertook to pay on our behalf, won the battle which He fought to deliver us from hell, and is accepted as our Surety and our Substitute by our Father in heaven. Had He never come forth from the prison of the grave, how could we ever have been sure that our ransom had been fully paid? (1 Cor. 15:17.) Had He never risen from His conflict with the last enemy, how could we have felt confident, that He has overcome death, and him that had the power of death, that is the devil? (Heb. 2:14.) But thanks be unto God, we are not left in doubt. The Lord Jesus really "rose again for our justification." True Christians are "begotten again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." They may boldly say with Paul, "Who is he that condemns – it is Christ that died, yes rather that is risen again" (Rom. 8:34. Rom. 4:25. 1 Pet. 1:3)."

J C Ryle

In Conclusion...

For three days the world was plunged into darkness. The women of Jesus' entourage wept bitterly, taking but small consolation in the permission to perform the tender act of anointing His body. The disciples had fled and were huddled together in hiding, their dreams shattered by the cry, "It is finished."

For three days God was silent. Then He screamed. With cataclysmic power, God rolled the stone away and unleashed a paroxysm of creative energy of life, infusing it once more into the still body of Christ.

Jesus' heart began to beat, pumping glorified blood through glorified arteries, sending glorified power to muscles atrophied by death. The grave clothes could not bind Him as He rose to His feet and departed the crypt. In an instant, the mortal became immortal and death was swallowed up by victory. In a moment of history, Job's question was answered once and for all: "If a man die, shall he live again?" Here is the watershed moment of human history, where the misery of the race is transformed into grandeur. Here the proclamation of the early church, was born with the cry, "He is risen."

R C Sproul