

*Morning Worship - April 16, 2017*

*“The Resurrection of Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:3-8*

*If we look at our world biblically, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the centerpieces of history. All types and prophecies in the Old Testament point forward to Christ’s death and resurrection. Our sacraments: the Lord’s Supper and Baptism remember what Christ has done for us. Our worship on Sunday, the day of Christ’s resurrection rather than on Saturday, the day God rested from creation, demonstrates the weighty importance of Christ’s resurrection!*

*We live in a world today that has lost its biblical eyesight. Anti-supernaturalism has removed God, miracles and a strong notion of right and wrong from our general learning, however, it is only in the right conception of these things that Christ’s resurrection makes full and meaningful sense.*

*1. We should aim to understand Christ’s resurrection in its biblical context:*

*1. It represents an unraveling of the death brought about by Adam’s sin – Genesis 2:17; Genesis 5; Romans 5:12-19*

**"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:17 NKJ)**

**So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. (Genesis 5:5 NKJ)**

**So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. (Genesis 5:8 NKJ)**

**So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. (Genesis 5:11 NKJ)**

“... the genealogy continually repeats the depressing phrase, “and he died.” ... Methuselah came to within thirty-one years of a millennium, “**and he died.**” The Hebrew for these three words is a resounding single word.” R. Kent Hughes

**Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (Romans 5:12 NKJ)**

**For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) (Romans 5:17 NKJ)**

*2. More broadly, Christ’s resurrection fits, in Scripture, against death as the penalty for sin, rather than a natural ending of life –*  
**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 NKJ)**

*3. It is a beginning of redemption, not only of humans but of the entire creation, redemption from the curse – Genesis 3:14-19;*  
**So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed ... "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life."<sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. <sup>19</sup>In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:14-19 NKJ)**

*Look at this curse: Snakes are made to crawl on their bellies and eat dust; women are given pain in child bearing and uncomfortable relations with men. Men are given toil with the earth and all are cursed to die! Christ’s resurrection reverses this CURSE, even for the entire creation -*

**For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;<sup>21</sup> because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:20-21 NKJ)**

*The famous Christmas song, “Joy to the World” is about Christ’s victory over the CURSE –*

*“No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.”*

**And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. (Revelation 22:3 NKJ)**

II. *The resurrection, because Christ died for our sins, is connected to God's forgiveness of our sins, it demonstrates that God has accepted and is pleased with Christ's sacrifice –*

1. *Without Christ's resurrection we are in a dreadful situation which Paul calls "still in your sins!" – 1Corinthians 15:17-19*

**And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!<sup>18</sup> Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.<sup>19</sup> If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. (1 Corinthians 15:17-19 NKJ)**

2. *Christ's death and resurrection bring us back into right relationship to God; because of what Christ did:*

A. *God is our God and our Father -*

**Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" (John 20:17 NKJ)**

B. *Christ brings us "peace" with God –*

**Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19 NKJ)**

**So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." (John 20:21 NKJ)**

**And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" (John 20:26 NKJ)**

**Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1 NKJ)**

C. *Christ's resurrection means God does not condemn us -*

**Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Romans 8:34-35 NKJ)**

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine  
*Charles Wesley*

III. *We should understand what Christ's resurrection implies about our resurrection:*

1. *According to Christ, everyone will one day be resurrected -*  
**"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice<sup>29</sup> and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. (John 5:28-29 NKJ)**

*Note Jesus divides all people into two categories:*

A. *...those who have done good, to the resurrection of life ... (John 5:29a NKJ)*

B. *... and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. (John 5:29b NKJ)*

2. *Do these verses promote works righteousness? Yes and no!*

A. *We have no righteous works of our own –*

**But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6 NKJ)**

B. *However, Christ's righteousness cannot be kept down –*  
**"whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. (Acts 2:24 NKJ)**

C. *Christ's righteousness is imputed to us who believe in Jesus -*  
**"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.<sup>25</sup> "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.<sup>26</sup> "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, (John 5:24-26 NKJ)**

*Do you believe? Do you hear Christ's voice? Do you follow Him when you hear His voice?*

**"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.<sup>28</sup> "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.<sup>29</sup> "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.<sup>30</sup> "I and My Father are one."<sup>31</sup> Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. (John 10:27-31 NKJ)**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),<sup>6</sup> and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, (Ephesians 2:4-6 NKJ)

3. *Christ's resurrection should change our lives even NOW –*

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.<sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.<sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.<sup>4</sup> When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.<sup>5</sup> Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.<sup>6</sup> Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,<sup>7</sup> in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.<sup>8</sup> But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,<sup>11</sup> where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.<sup>14</sup> But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:1-17 NKJ)

4. *If we are not "in Christ" "in the Lamb's Book of Life" we will JUDGED for our works, or lack of them -*

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second

death.<sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15 NKJ)

5. *See how Christ divides and judges people in the last day –*

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.<sup>32</sup> "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.<sup>33</sup> "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:<sup>35</sup> 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;<sup>36</sup> 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink?'<sup>38</sup> 'When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*?'<sup>39</sup> 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'<sup>40</sup> "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'<sup>41</sup> "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:<sup>42</sup> 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;<sup>43</sup> 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'<sup>44</sup> "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'<sup>45</sup> "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.'<sup>46</sup> "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:31-46 NKJ)

A. *Divided between sheep and goats:*

B. *These separated in regard to what they did and did not do to Christ's brethren, which He counts equivalent to Himself!*

IV. *What are the benefits / blessings of being one with Christ that relate most closely to His resurrection?*

1. *We gain resurrected bodies, which are:*

A. *Celestial rather than terrestrial – 1 Corinthians 15:40*

**There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. (1 Corinthians 15:40 NKJ)**

*B. Incorruptible rather than corruptible – 1 Corinthians 15:42*

**So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. (1 Corinthians 15:42 NKJ)**

*C. They are glorious rather than dishonorable – 1 Corinthians 15:43*

**It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. ... (1 Corinthians 15:43 NKJ)**

*D. They powerful rather than weak – 1 Corinthians 15:43*

**It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. (1 Corinthians 15:43 NKJ)**

*E. They are Spiritual not natural, gotten from Christ rather than Adam, made of heavenly things rather than the dust – 1 Corinthians 15:44-49*

**It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.<sup>45</sup> And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.<sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.<sup>47</sup> The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven.<sup>48</sup> As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are heavenly*.<sup>49</sup> And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*. (1 Corinthians 15:44-49 NKJ)**

*F. They are part of a dramatic CHANGE -*

<sup>50</sup> **Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.<sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.<sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.**

**"So is the resurrection of the dead ... Paul now applies his illustrations to his argument to prove the kind of body we shall have after the resurrection. He does it by a series of marvelous contrasts that gather all his points. The earthly and the risen beings differ in duration, value, (and) power. **It is sown** ... In death, like the seed; ... **In corruption** ... to corrupt. ... The resurrection body has undergone a complete change as compared with the body of flesh like the plant from the seed. It is related to it, but it is a different body of glory."**

A.T. Robertson

*G. One of the great benefits of our new bodies is that we will better be able to stand in God's presence, we will be more capable of knowing Him –*

**For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJ)**

**"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)**

*H. They (our new bodies) are a benefit of Christ's victory over sin and death -*

<sup>54</sup> **So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."<sup>55</sup> "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?"<sup>56</sup> The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. (1 Corinthians 15:44-56 NKJ)**

*2. Because of Christ's Resurrection –*

*A. We live forever in right relationship with God – Revelation 20:1-7*

**Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.<sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God."<sup>4</sup> "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."<sup>5</sup> Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."<sup>6</sup> And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."<sup>7</sup> "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. (Revelation 21:1-7 NKJ)**

*B. We escape the dread doom due us because of sin – Revelation 21:8*

**"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8 NKJ)**

*Arnold Brevick*