

Doctrine of the Resurrection

A sermon by Pastor Byron Chesney preached Sunday evening, Sept. 13, 2015

† 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

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.

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.

To get a good understanding at why the Apostle Paul was writing this letter to the Church of Corinth, we must first understand that this was by and large a great church. The problem Paul was facing was that some were flatly denying the resurrection of the dead. Some were teaching that the resurrection was simply an allegory and was not teaching actual bodily resurrection, but more of a spiritual resurrection. Paul even names some of these false teachers over in the

Book of **2 Timothy 2:16-18**: 16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus (Him-a-nayus) and Philetus (Fa-lettuce); 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

So Paul is defending the Gospel and stressing the importance of the resurrection of the dead. If it was not for the resurrection then all of our faith, hope, trust, would be in vain. He is basically saying, that there are some people there that don't believe in the resurrection but here he has been preaching it as sound doctrine all along. And if it isn't true then he isn't preaching the truth and their faith is in vain.

He started out this chapter presenting the clear Gospel message and that is that Christ was crucified, he was buried, and he arose from the grave. Friends it takes all 3 of those ingredients for the Gospel to be real. If Christ wasn't crucified then it's for nothing. If he wasn't buried it would be for nothing. If his body wasn't resurrected it would be for nothing. It takes all 3! The resurrection is a vital part of the Gospel message! If not for the resurrection our preaching is in vain, our faith is in vain, our hope is in vain.

Facts about the resurrection

- Doctrine of the resurrection is the foundation of the New Testament.
- Mentioned 104 times in the N.T.
- Christianity is the only religion with a living originator.
 - Buddha, Confucius, Muhammed,

Explanations of Jesus' resurrection

- Fraud theory – the whole story is a hoax.
- Swoon theory – that Jesus only fainted and was not dead, the cold tomb revived him.
- Hallucination theory – the disciples wanted to see Jesus and thought he would arise so in their imaginations they saw him. – Luke 24:25 disproves this theory.
- The ghost theory – they only saw his ghost and thought it was Jesus. – ghost do not eat or drink or have flesh. – Luke 24:39, 43
- The myth theory – it is a wild story handed down by the ancients without truth. – however the whole canon of Scripture proves that theory to be wrong.
- The truth is, Jesus rose bodily from the grave as he said he would.
 - Acts 2:24: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Evidence of the resurrection

- The empty tomb.
 - Matthew 28:6, He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
 - Luke 24:3: And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.
- Testimony of the angels.
 - Luke 24:5-7 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, 7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.
- Testimony of people who talked with Jesus after the resurrection, and saw Jesus eat, drink, and saw his wounds.
- Testimony of the 500 who saw him at one time.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:6: 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.
- He appeared to Stephen at his martyrdom.
 - Acts 7:55-56 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.
- His appearance to Paul on Damascus Road.
 - Acts 9:5: And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks.
- Many infallible proofs.
 - Acts 1:3: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:
- By testimony of millions who have proved him to be a living Savior.

His resurrection body

- He had flesh and bones.
 - Luke 24:39: Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.
- He had a glorious body.
 - Philippians 3:21: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.
- He had an immortal body.
 - Romans 6:9: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
- He had a spiritual body.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:44: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.
- He had the ability to pass through a solid wall.
 - John 20:19: 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, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.
 - He rose by the power of the Father. – Acts 2:23-24: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.
- By the power of Christ himself.
 - John 2:19: Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
 - John 10:18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Results of the resurrection

- Proves the existence of God. A living God resurrected Jesus Christ.
- Proves the deity of Christ.
- Guarantees everyone else shall rise too.
 - John 5:29: And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation
- Prepares Jesus to fulfill his next promise, which is “I will come again.” – John 14:1-3

Conclusion

- The resurrection is the greatest power in the world outside the power of prayer. The resurrection surpasses the power of the atom, hydrogen, cobalt or uranium. The resurrection has the power to give life to the dead. The resurrection is the basis on whether Christianity stands or falls.
- And the resurrection has power over death, hell, and the grave and gives us victory.

So, if all of that is true then we are the most miserable of men! We've got nothing to live for. Satan has already won. Lets pack it up and go to the house because we're doing nothing but going through the motions here.

Paul wrote this concerning the resurrection in **Romans 1:1-6**

- 1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
- 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)
- 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;
- 4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:
- 5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:
- 6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

Paul is saying the resurrection proves that Jesus is the Son of God and has the power to save.

He goes on to say in **Romans 6:1-5**

- 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
- 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
- 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Hallelujah for the beginning of this Chapter, **1 Corinthians 15:1-4:** 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:

Praise God we have a living Savior. He's not in that grave. He's not rotted away and blown like dust in the wind. He is alive. He arose. Up from the Grave He Arose with a mighty triumph or His foes. He arose a victor of the dark domain and he lives forever with his saints to reign. He arose, He arose, Hallelujah Christ Arose!

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version