

Easter 2022

Title: Doctrinal Significance Of The Resurrection

Text: 1 Peter 1:3 & Various

Central Aim: To prove the abundance of evidence of the bodily, literal resurrection of Jesus. The key words of our text “**living hope, through, resurrection, dead**”.

Introduction: The gospels contain abundant testimony to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, cf. Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-21:25. Also, in addition to these gospel accounts of the resurrection, the book of Acts is a story of the Apostles’ proclamation of the resurrection of Christ and of continued prayer to Christ and trust in Him as the one who is alive and reigning in heaven.¹ All of the epistles (letters) all depend upon the validity of the resurrection of Jesus. The book of Revelation shows the risen Christ reigning in heaven and predicts His return to conquer His enemies and reign in glory. The whole NT is a witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I John 1:1-4 enforces the idea of the incarnate Christ who was in the flesh, touched, seen, heard, handled.

Why is the resurrection of Jesus so vital to our hope our living hope? In our text of 1 Peter we see that we have been born again to a “**living hope**” not a dead hope or a hope that has some doubt. Why is it living hope? Hope can be defined as “*confident expectation*” and adding living to that means we have a Savior who isn’t dead, but living and our hope is in Him. But how? Because He was good man, and died for a good cause? No, He was God in the flesh, who became the atonement for our sin, and defeated death by the resurrection. His resurrection was not a “spiritual” resurrection. It was a literal, physical bodily resurrection. A body no longer subject to death, suffering, weakness or aging, but an eternal one. 1 Corinthians 15:20 “**But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.**” Unlike the resurrection of Lazarus, who was again subject to dying, weakness and aging, the resurrection body is not. All Christians will have a new body, a resurrected body, 1 Corinthians 15:53 “**For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.**” And this is done because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE RESURRECTION AND REGENERATION IS CLEAR.

In the resurrection, Jesus earned for us new life, just as His. We have not received all of this yet, as we still inhabit a fleshly, sinful body. But one is coming. For now, we have a resurrection in our spirit. Our hearts have been changed and transformed. Ephesians 2:5-6 affirm this resurrection power, “**even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**” Colossians 3:1 “**Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**” Paul says his goal in life, according to Philippians 3:10 “**that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection.**”

¹ Systematic Theology; Wayne Grudem, pp. 608

Easter 2022

Essentially, because of the resurrection of Jesus we can and will be obedient to God. It enables us to live righteously. It enables us to reflect the grace and mercy that God has shown us. Only because of His resurrection power.

Paul affirms this too in Ephesians 1:19-20 "and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places.*" The implication here is that the power by which God raised Jesus from the dead is the same power at work within us.² Romans 6:4 "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

Application: How does this work in our lives today as Christians? This resurrection power enables us to be more like Christ, to say no to sin in our lives and give us power over sin. It doesn't mean we were sinless or can ever reach that point here, but we have power to say no and avoid sinful acts. We see this promise in Acts 1:8 "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Because of the resurrection and the indwelling Holy Spirit, you will be able to share Christ, proclaim the gospel.

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION ENSURES OUR JUSTIFICATION

Romans 4:25 "*He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*" When Christ was raised from the dead, it was God's approval of Christ's redemptive work. Philippians 2:8,9a "*Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him.*" By raising Christ from the dead, God the Father was in effect saying He approved of Christ's word of suffering and dying for our sins, that His work was completed, and that Christ no longer had any need to remain dead.³

There is no penalty left to pay for sin, no more wrath of God, no more guilt to bear. It has been paid by Jesus Christ. This is how Paul can say He was raised for our justification.

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION ENSURES THAT WE WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

1 Corinthians 15:12-19, if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. Apart from the resurrection of Christ there is no eternal life, nor is there any reason to preach about Christ's death on the cross. It's all in vain, if He did not rise from the dead. In vs. 15 Paul claims we have been false witnesses to Christ's resurrection. He had testified of His

² Systematic Theology; Wayne Grudem, pp. 614

³ Systematic Theology; Wayne Grudem, pp. 615

Easter 2022

resurrection. Thus, he became a false witness of this fact. And by the way, there was severe punishment for this false witness crime.

The point of preaching the resurrection of Christ if He's not raised is pointless. Why would one do that? Knowing, He is not raised but was "stolen" by the disciples as some tradition has held. The truth of the resurrection gives us living hope and if He's not raised we have three failures.

First, our faith is worthless (futile). How can we put our faith in a living hope when the resurrection isn't true? If He is not raised then death is not defeated. Our faith in eternal hope is not real. How can we have faith in Christ, if He's not risen? His end would be just as ours, dead. But He's not dead, He is risen. This is the essential reason we have living hope because He has defeated the grave and death.

Second, you are still in your sins. If Christ is not risen, you will be responsible for the payment of your sins. A payment that will be made with your life in eternal damnation in hell. The death of Christ on the cross is our atonement for sin. He became responsible for our sin. His righteousness was imputed to us. Without the literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus, you must pay for your sin. Glory that He is risen and my sins are paid for. Psalms 32:2 "**How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity.**"

Third, those who have died have perished. In other words, there is no hope for them. They are destroyed. If Christ isn't risen, then what would be the hope beyond death? **If there be no resurrection, they cannot rise, and therefore are lost, even those who have died in the Christian faith, and for it. It is plain from this that those among the Corinthians who denied the resurrection meant thereby a state of future retribution, and not merely the revival of the flesh; they took death to be the destruction and extinction of the man, and not merely of the bodily life.**⁴

If there's no resurrection then these three truths aren't true. Our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins and there's no future resurrection, eternal body. What a misery that would be to be beholden to such a view. To have no hope, no living hope and for it all to end in some sort of annihilation. Paul adamantly opposed such a view. Furthermore, in vs. 19 he concluded this position, "**If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied** (miserable). That's right if this is our best life now, suffering, pain, sickness, weakness and misery, if this were it, how miserable this would be.

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION ENSURES OUR OBEDIENCE

It is because Christ has been raised from the dead, and we too shall be raised, that we should constitute steadfastly in the Lord's work. There's no reason for you to live as if you haven't been raised from spiritual death. Dead men don't do anything, but those born again, slaves to Christ, do,

⁴ https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/1Cr/1Cr_015.cfm (Accessed 4.16.22)

Easter 2022

they obey. 1 Corinthians 15:58 **“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”** Because Christ has been raised and we will be raised with Him, our minds ought to be set on eternal things. The problem today in much of modern day Christianity, it's filled with earthly thinking, what's best for me, how can I be most comfortable, and suffer the least. Too many have their minds on earthly things, not eternal things. If Christ is risen, earthly things should be growing dim, very dim. And Christ and His glory should be glowing. Colossians 3:1-4 **“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”**

Finally because of Christ's resurrection, it enables us to stop yielding to sin in our lives. No you won't be sinless, but the attitude and walk is one of desiring to be pure and holy like Christ. Romans 6:9-11 **“Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”** Because of His resurrection we are dead to sin, we no longer live in sin, or walk that way. We are on a new path, a new walk, a new life, all because of His atoning death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. This is victory. Furthermore, in Romans 6:12 we have a therefore to vs. 9-11, **“Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body.”**

I rejoice today that I have a living hope in a resurrected Christ. It's because of His resurrection, that I can have hope in eternal life, and this life, although joyous, there lies a better hope, better life, eternal life, and one that will be in a new body forever. Glory.