

WHY THE RESURRECTION?

That the resurrection is the pinnacle of the Gospel is clearly seen in Paul's discussion of it in First Corinthians 15:1-4. Yet, in my judgment, the resurrection of Christ simply is not taught and preached as it ought to be. Some preach Christ and His love for man (John 15:13), and they should, but this is not all. Some will preach Christ and His miracles (John 20:30,31), and this is vital to understanding what He was trying to accomplish, but there is more. Still others want to preach Christ's alleged desire to cure social ills, but they fail to remember what Jesus said about these kinds of things (John 12:8). We must teach more about the resurrection of Christ, that we may understand more our own resurrection and its companion blessings.

Let us first learn a few things about the word "resurrection." There are three words in the Greek text that give us our word "resurrection." The first one, used one time, means "resuscitation" and is used of the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead (Matthew 27:53). This speaks of a *recovery* from the death blow. The second word, used again but one time, means "to rise out from." This is used with respect to an accomplished goal, and applies to us as part of the fruit of the resurrection of Christ (see Philippians 3:11). The third one is used 41 times and is the most familiar word which means "to raise from the dead; raise from the grave." This then is the action which brings our hope (Romans 8:23). An interesting use of this word is found in Luke 2:34 where Simeon said, "this child is set for the falling **and the rising** of many in Israel." This "rising" is the word for "resurrection." Here it carries with it the thought of "betterment" of others.

What was accomplished in the resurrection? First, the resurrection brought an end

to the **agony, power, fear, and sting of death**. Hear Peter: "*Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God unto you by mighty works and wonders and signs which God did by him in the midst of you, even as ye yourselves know; him, being delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye by the hand of lawless men did crucify and slay: whom God raised up, **having loosed the pangs of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it***" (Acts 2:22-24). We learn from the Hebrews writer that "*But we behold him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should **taste of death** for every man. Since then the children are sharers in flesh and blood, he also himself in like manner partook of the same; that through death he might **bring to nought** him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might **deliver** all them who through **fear of death** were all their lifetime subject to bondage*" (Hebrews 2:9,14-15). Read the exciting news Paul writes regarding what the resurrection accomplished in First Corinthians 15:54-57!

Second, the resurrection will bring us **reward for righteous deeds**. Read what Jesus taught: "*And he said to him also that had bidden him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, nor thy kinsmen, nor rich neighbors; lest haply they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, bid the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and thou shalt be blessed; because they have not wherewith to recompense thee: for **thou shalt be recompensed in the resurrection of the just***" (Luke 14:12-14). Through the apostle

John Jesus teaches us to *“Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment”* (John 5:28,29). Some will no doubt fear the resurrection because of what is involved, but we who are faithful look forward to the reward: *“For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things [done] in the body, according to what he hath done, **whether it be good or bad**”* (II Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the words of John who wrote, *“Look to yourselves, that ye lose not the things which we have wrought, but that ye receive a full reward”* (II John 8).

The resurrection **fulfilled the prophets, answered the promise, provided a King and produced our High Priest!** Read all these facts in Peter’s first Gospel sermon, Acts 2:29-32, and from the Hebrews 7:16, 24-25. The resurrection brought **anger to the “religious”** (Acts 4:1,2), **salvation to believers** (Acts 4:4), **confusion to the “wise”** (Acts 17:18), **and scoffing to the skeptics** (Acts 17:32). The resurrection **demonstrated God’s power** (Romans 1:3,4...16), **verified Christ’s claim** (John 2:19-22), **and afforded us a living hope** (I Peter 1:3).

Oh, where would we be without the resurrection? We would not have comfort in death (I Thessalonians 4:18), hope, faith, and boldness (I Thessalonians 4:13), nor a trustworthy God (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18-20). Obedience would be pointless and the church would be worthless! Let us continually thank God for the resurrection of Christ!

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

October 18, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Item Needed: DRINKING CUPS FOR FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS

Wednesday’s Wisdom:

“Purge personal leaven of sin; and be positive influential leaven of righteousness for the world to see!” Jacob Haley

Sympathies for: Howie Bell whose mom died last week; Hubert Wiley whose sister died last Sunday. Pray for these families’ comfort.

Ladies’ Night Out: this coming Thursday, October 22 at 7pm here at the building. Bring snacks or drinks.

Hocking Hills Hike: last Saturday of October, the 31st. Meet at the parking area of Cantwell Cliffs (take US 33 toward Logan, turn South on 374). Then we’ll have lunch at the picnic area of Rock House, and go from there...