

# Why is the Resurrection Important and Vital to Our Faith?

*“The resurrection is at the very core of the Christian faith. Inasmuch as the resurrection can be validated and set forth, Christianity stands or falls. We are the resurrection people; we believe in the resurrection from the dead. If you were to name the four global religions that are based on a personality, not just a code of ethics or philosophical construct, only one of those four has a founder who claimed that He would rise from the dead- and did. There is only one reason we propagate a faith as outlandish as this, only one reason we can claim that God came in the flesh, in the form of a man, and died on a cross for forgiveness of sin, because the founder came out of the grave and stayed out forever.” –Allen Hood*

*“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. Christianity stands or falls with the truth of the resurrection.” -Michael Green*

*<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, <sup>35</sup> till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’<sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Acts 2:32-36*

- A. I have been studying the book of Acts and I have been impacted by the continual emphasis and repetition of one theme: **the resurrection of Jesus**. I have been meditating upon this and came to the understanding that this is the one thing that distinguishes the early church from the modern church. **The apostles lived their lives under the absolute unbending conviction that Jesus was raised from the dead and that He is Lord [God]**. This is the heartbeat of all they preached, the motivation behind their sacrificial lifestyles and the source of their powerful lives that brought change to their worlds.
- B. The modern church has celebrated the cross of Jesus and the forgiveness of sin. However, there is something after the cross- 3 days later a resurrected body, 40 days later and ascension, today the Son of God holding all authority in every sphere of creation. It seems like we love forgiveness of sin [Savior] but we resist the Lordship of Christ in our lives. He did not

only die for you but He now is alive at the right hand of God interceding for you, releasing His Spirit, sustaining all things, etc.

- C. **What would happen in your life if your heart was connected to the reality that Jesus is alive, holds all power and authority in heaven and earth, and is for you? He is not the “Jesus of history” but the Christ who is alive forever and is right now at the right hand of the throne of God.**

WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IMPORTANT TO YOUR FAITH?

1. **IT VALIDATES THE CLAIMS THAT CHRIST MADE DURING HIS LIFETIME.**

One of the foundational things He based His validity upon was the resurrection. If there was no resurrection, then He was not the Son of God or our Savior.

- a. **John 2:18-22** after clearing the temple He is asked what sign He will give to show He has authority to do this. He replies His resurrection
  - b. **Matthew 12:38-42** Jesus declared that the sign to His generation was His resurrection, or the sign of Jonah
  - c. Jesus predicts His death and resurrection 3 times in Mark to detail His mission and purpose, what the Messiah would do and what He would look like. **[Mark 8:31-32, 9:31-32, 10:33-34]**
- A. **The resurrection changes everything.** A man dying for a noble cause is worthy of sympathy and admiration, but a man who has come back from the grave with all power is worthy of our devotion and obedience. He does not simply have an opinion or suggestions on life, He defines reality and sustains all things. [Revelation 1, Hebrews 1]
- B. Jesus made claims of deity- to be **THE** way, truth and life and no one can come to the Father except through acknowledging Him as Lord. [John 14:6] Anyone can make claims, but He staked the validity of those claims upon the one event known as the resurrection. He declared that the sign or confirmation of His identity was the resurrection. [John 2] This is our hope, our assurance and our rock- He is alive, He is Lord, He is coming again.
- C. We cannot simply treat Jesus as a means of forgiveness or to avoid feeling guilty, but as Lord, as God, as Truth. He defines reality [Alpha and Omega], He defines truth, He defines successful Christianity

D. We must approach Him with humility and reverence rather than a mindset that He is optional or dispensable.

E. **You must decide who you say He is and live according to that conviction. [Matthew 16]**

*<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead **Romans 1:1-4***

F. His resurrection validates the truth of the Word: that He is God and is worthy of all our devotion and obedience.

## WE ARE ALIVE BECAUSE HE IS ALIVE

*<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **Romans 6: 3-11***

*<sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **Romans 5:9-10***

*<sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **Ephesians 1:19-21***

*<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. **1 Corinthians 15:22***

A. His resurrection power enables me to live the crucified life. He has overcome what I could not and now empowers me to walk in life and light.

- B. We are united to Christ and filled with His Spirit and His life. When He was raised from the dead, it released life to all who would believe, raising them out of spiritual death into new life. [Eph 1:15-2:10]
- C. Christ in us is the hope of glory [Colossians 1:27]
- D. We are now the dwelling place of God, the temple housing His presence.

## IT IS THE CORE OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

*<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel** I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... **1 Corinthians 15:1-4***

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Acts 1:22, 2:32-36, 5:30-32, 26:22-23

Luke 24:44-49

Romans 4:25

- A. The message of Christianity [the gospel] rests upon the resurrection, for there is no good news apart from the resurrection. If He is not alive, we are still dead in our sins disconnected from God and destined for eternal separation. There is no solution for the epidemic of humanity.
- B. The message of the first century church was not: Jesus died for your sins or that God loves them, the message was He is alive, reconsider your entire life in the light of what God has done. Yes He died for our sins, and yes He loves us but the message of the gospel rests upon Christ's own claims to be the Son of God based upon the resurrection from the dead.
- C. These men were not spreading a new ideology or philosophy, but witnessing to the truth of the gospel [good news]: that the true and Living God had broken into time and space, dealt with the problem of spiritual death and humanities separation from God, paid our debt of sin and died in our place, and now He has rose in victory bringing us life and reconciliation to God again. The resurrection was the validation of this message.

## IT IS THE GUARANTEE OF HIS RETURN

The resurrection of Christ inaugurated a new season of God's dealings with man and the timetable of redemption. When He rose, He became the first fruits of the resurrection, or the day when He would return to establish the kingdom of God in fullness upon the earth.

- A. Jesus is not a historical figure that we pay homage to; He is the risen Lord of glory, the coming Judge of the Earth, our beloved Bridegroom who is alive.**
- B. Jesus is at the right hand of God and all judgment has been given to Him. [John 5:19-30, Acts 10:42, Revelation 5:1-7]