

# THE BODILY RESURRECTION

## I. THE DOCTRINE OF THE RESURRECTION.

And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.  
1 Corinthians 15:14

The Bodily Resurrection of Christ is one of the cardinal facts and doctrines of the gospel. If Christ be not risen, our faith is vain. The whole of the New Testament revelation rests on this as an historical fact.

The Doctrine of the Resurrection is:

1. Foretold by the prophets. (Psalms 16:10; Acts 13:34-35)
2. Foretold by Jesus Christ Himself. (Matthew 20:17-19; Mark 9:9; 14:28; John 2:19-22)
3. Proclaimed by the Apostles. (Acts 2:29-32; Acts 3:13-15)
4. Part of the Gospel. (Isaiah 53:10-12; 1 Corinthians 15:1-6)

## II. THE BODILY RESURRECTION—THE VICTORY OVER DEATH.

Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. Acts 2:24

The resurrection is spoken of as the act of:

1. God the Father. (Psalms 16:10; Acts 2:22-24; 3:13-15; Romans 8:10-11; Ephesians 1:18-23; Colossians 2:10-12; Hebrews 13:20,21)
2. Christ himself. (John 2:19-22; 10:17-18)
3. The Holy Spirit. (1 Peter 3:18-20)

The resurrection is a public testimony of Christ's release from his earthly body, and an evidence of the Father's acceptance of his work of redemption. It is a victory over death and the grave for all his followers.

## III. THE PURPOSE OF THE RESURRECTION.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Romans 8:11

The Purpose of the Resurrection was:

1. For the fulfillment of Scripture. (Luke 24:45-47)
2. For the forgiveness of sins. (1 Corinthians 15:16,17)
3. For our justification. (Romans 4:23-25; 8:33,34)
4. For our hope. (1 Corinthians 15:19)
5. To prove His Sonship. (Psalms 2:7; Romans 1:1-4)
6. To make faith real. (1 Corinthians 15:14,17)
7. To set him on David's throne (Acts 2:30-35)
8. To insure His exaltation (Acts 4:10,11; Philippians 2:9-11)
9. To guarantee the Coming Judgement (Acts 17:30,31)
10. To seal the believer's resurrection (Acts 26:22,23; 1 Corinthians 15:20,23)

The importance of Christ's resurrection can be seen when we consider that if he rose the gospel is true, and if he rose not it is false. Our justification was secured by his obedience to His death on the cross, and therefore he was raised from the dead.

## IV. THE PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead proved him to be the Son of God, inasmuch as it authenticated all his claims.

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. John 2:19

The Resurrection can be proven by:

1. A empty tomb (John 20:1-9)
2. An angelic testimony (Matthew 28:5-7)
3. His enemies (Matthew 28:1-15)
4. Many infallible proofs (John 20:20,27; Acts 1:1-4)
5. Apostolic preaching (Acts 1:21,22; Acts 4:33)
6. The Lord's Day (Sunday) Revelation:1:10; 1 Corinthians 16:2

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. John 10:17

With reference to the report which the Roman soldiers were bribed (Matthew 28:12-14) to circulate concerning Christ's resurrection, "his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept," Matthew Henry in his "Commentary," under John 20:1-10, fittingly remarks, "The grave-clothes in which Christ had been buried were found in very good order, which serves for an evidence that his body was not 'stolen away while men slept.' Robbers of tombs have been known to take away 'the clothes' and leave the body; but none ever took away 'the body' and left the clothes, especially when they were 'fine linen' and new (Mark 15:46). Any one would rather choose to carry a dead body in its clothes than naked. Or if they that were supposed to have stolen it would have left the grave-clothes behind, yet it cannot be supposed they would find leisure to 'fold up the linen.'"

## V. APPEARANCES OF JESUS CHRIST AFTER THE RESURRECTION.

Ten different appearances of our risen Lord are recorded in the New Testament. They may be arranged as follows:

1. To Mary Magdalene at the sepulcher alone. (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18)
2. To certain women, "the other Mary," Salome, Joanna, and others, as they returned from the sepulcher. (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10)
3. To Simon Peter alone on the day of the resurrection. (Luke 24:33,34; 1 Corinthians. 15:5.)
4. To the two disciples on the way to Emmaus on the day of the resurrection. (Luke 24:13-35)
5. To the ten disciples (Thomas being absent) and others "with them," at Jerusalem on the evening of the resurrection day. (John 20:19-24)
6. To the disciples again (Thomas being present) at Jerusalem. (John 20:26-29).
7. To the disciples when fishing at the Sea of Galilee. (John 21:1-23)
8. To the eleven, and above 500 brethren at once, at an appointed place in Galilee. (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)
9. To James, but under what circumstances we are not informed. (1 Corinthians 15:7)
10. To the apostles immediately before the ascension. (Mark 16:14-19; Luke 24:36-53; Acts 1:1-11)

In addition to the above, mention might be made of Christ's manifestation of himself to Paul at Damascus, who speaks of it as an appearance of the risen Saviour. (Acts 9:1-9,17; 1 Corinthians: 9:1; 15:8;).