

The Resurrection of Christ

Text: **Matthew 28:1-9**

Intro:

- The doctrine of the resurrection is a foundation doctrine of the New Testament and is mentioned 104 times in the New Testament.
- Christianity is the only religion with a living Originator.
 - Buddha is dead.
 - Brahma is dead.
 - Mohammed is dead.
 - Karl Marx is dead (Yes, communism is a religion)
 - There isn't anybody on earth who founded a religion who is not dead and buried and their tomb can be located and people can produce their bones.
- That isn't all!
 - If you had the bones of Karl Marx, you could still be a good Communist.
 - If you had the bones of Mohammed, you could still be a good Mohammedan.
 - If you had the bones of Brahma, you could still be a good Brahmanist or Hindu.
 - If you had the bones of Buddha, you could still be a good Buddhist.

➤ However, if you had even the smallest bone fragment of Jesus Christ, you could not be a good Christian.

- The Apostle Paul tells us that if Christ was not resurrected then the following would be true – **I Cor. 15:13-17**

- 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.

➤ **The boast and glory of Christianity is an empty tomb.**

- Jesus is risen.

- The best news this world ever had it got from the graveyard when the angel said, **“He is not here, but is risen...”** (Luke 24:6)

- On the cross Jesus cried, **“...It is finished...”** (John 19:30)

- If Jesus did not rise from the grave, the Apostle Paul said, **“...we are of all men most miserable”** (1 Cor. 15:19). – In other words,

- We are yet in our sins.

- We are lost. *3 on our way to hell!*

- We are liars and false witnesses of God, saying that God raised Christ from the dead.
 - This would make us liars if He didn't raise Him from the dead.
 - Jesus said in **Matthew 16:21**, "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."
 - If the resurrection is true, then Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God.
- This morning we want to examine four things concerning the Resurrection.
- 1) The Evidence of the Resurrection
 - 2) Our Lord's Resurrected Body
 - 3) How Did Jesus Rise From the Dead
 - 4) Results of the Resurrection

I. **THE EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION**

- **The empty tomb**

- **The angel in Mt. 28:6**, said "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."
- **In Luke 24:3**, the Bible tells us, "And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus."

- **The testimony of angels**

- **Luke 24:5-7**, “5 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.”
- **People who talked to Him after the resurrection**
 - Peter, Mary, Cleopas, and Thomas
- **Jesus ate and drank, showed His wounds to friends after the resurrection.**
- **He was seen by 500 who saw Him at once**
 - **1 Cor. 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.”
- **By His appearance to Stephen at his martyrdom**
 - **Acts 7:56**, “And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the **Son of man** standing on the right hand of God.”
- **By His appearance to Paul on the 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.”

- **We have the testimony of millions who have proved Him to be a living Saviour**
- **By 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:”

II. OUR LORD’S RESURRECTED BODY

➤ 1) It 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.”

➤ 2) It was a glorious body

- **Phil. 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.”

➤ 3) It was immortal body that never will die

- **Rom. 6:9**, “Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead **dieth no more**; death hath no more dominion over him.”

➤ 4) It was a spiritual body *buried*

- **1 Cor. 15:44**, “It is sown a natural body; it is raised a **spiritual body**.”

- **5) The spirit body has 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.”
- The Bible tells us in Romans 8:29, that God did predestinate every believer in His Son to be conformed to the image of His Son.
- The Apostle John tells us in **1 John 3:2**, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.”
- In other words the believer’s resurrected body will be conformed to the body of Jesus Christ.
- The believer’s resurrected body will possess all the characteristics that our Lord’s resurrected body had.

III. HOW DID JESUS RISE FROM THE DEAD.

- **1) He arose by the power of the Father.**
 - **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.”
- **2) He rose 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.**”
- **3) HE rose by the power of 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:**”

IV. THE RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION

➤ **1) It proves the existence of God.**

- If there is no God, how did Christ rise from the dead?
- He rose because a living God resurrected Him.

➤ **2) It proves the deity of Christ.**

- Paul says Jesus Christ is “**...declared to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead**” (Rom. 1:4).
- The resurrection means that salvation is an accomplished fact in the **past tense**.
- Jesus said that salvation was completed when He died on the cross and the resurrection confirms this.
- This means real salvation is a “**done** proposition”, not “**do** proposition”
- The people who are trying to get to heaven by good works are in actuality according to the Word of God working their way to hell.
- The real difference between God’s salvation and man’s salvation is quite simple.
 - When men try to justify themselves, they always do works to justify themselves while rejecting what God did.

- In Biblical salvation, you accept what Christ **did** instead of what you are **doing**.
- A Christian does not do good works to get saved.
- A Christian does not do good works to stay saved.
- A Christian does good works because he is saved.
- **3) The resurrection guarantees that everyone shall rise.**
 - The righteous to life eternal, the unrighteous to face an angry judge and to be condemned.
 - **John 5:28-29**, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves 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 damnation.**”
- **4) The resurrection prepares Jesus to fulfill His next promise.**
 - **John 14:3**, Jesus said, “...I will come again” - *The Rapture - Catching away of the Christians @ 2nd Advent - Return to earth with his saints*
- **5) The power of the resurrection is an experience that a Christian can enjoy NOW.**
 - The Apostle Paul had experienced this power when he said in **Phil. 3:10**, “That I may know him, and **the power of his resurrection**, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”
 - It means living in newness of life which comes to us by the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ living His life anew in our bodies of

which Paul says, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." (2

Cor. 4:7).

Conclusion:

- This morning we have seen concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - We saw - **The Evidence of His Resurrection** – No doubt it is well documented that it took place.
 - We saw - **What His Resurrected Body was Like** – We saw how each believer will have the same resurrected body.
 - We saw – **How Jesus Rose From the Dead** – By the power of God, the Father, Christ, Himself and the Holy Spirit
 - We saw – **The Results of the Resurrection.**
- One that I want to focus on as I close is that as a result of the resurrection of Christ everyone someday will be resurrected.
- Some will be resurrected to eternal life with Christ in Heaven and some to eternal damnation in hell.
- I am here to tell you today that if you never trust Jesus Christ as your person Saviour.

- If you have never as the Bible instructs us to do, "...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." **Romans 10:9-10,13.**
- If you are trusting in anything other than the shed blood of Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sins and secure a home in heaven –
 - "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" **(1Peter 1:18-19).**
 - "...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."**(1 John 1:7).**
- **Then this is the resurrection that awaits you some day –**
 - **Please turn with me to Revelation 20:11-15.**
 - **My friend won't you be saved today and someday be resurrected to life eternal and not the lake fire?**