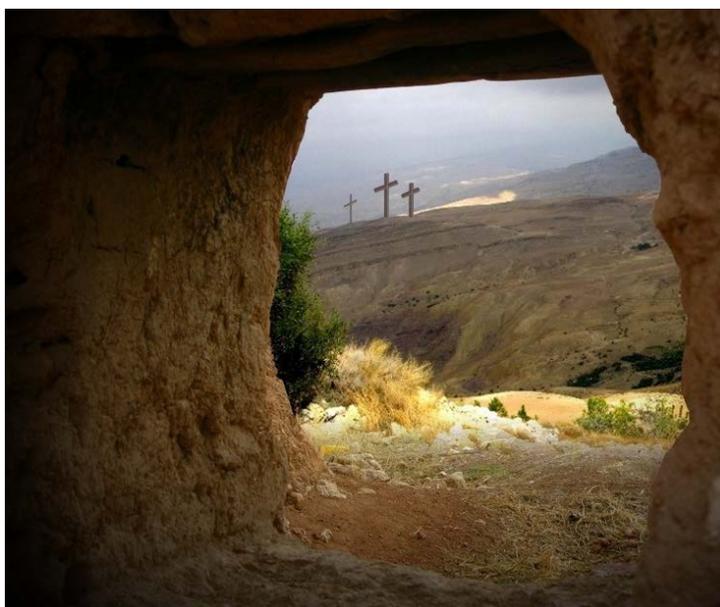


CHRIST IS RISEN

(What the Resurrection of Jesus Means to You Today)



WHY REMEMBER?

- ◆ Acceptance
- ◆ Intercession
- ◆ Great Joy
- ◆ Lively Hope

“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead.” (II Timothy 2:8)

Bill Kirk

"CHRIST IS RISEN"

Text: Romans 1:4; II Timothy 2:8

Subject: What The Resurrection Of Jesus Means To Us Today!

Introduction

(That Jesus Christ rose from the dead is a historical fact)

1. Psalm 16:10 prophesied that Jesus would rise from the dead.
2. Jesus himself prophesied that he would rise from the dead in Matthew 12:40.
"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
3. It was the gospel message of the early church. Peter said, *"We are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem, whom they slew and hanged on a tree. Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly."* (Acts 10:39, 40)
4. Jesus was seen at least 13 times after He was risen from the dead. Who saw him?
 - ◆ Mary Magdalene
 - ◆ The women returning from the tomb
 - ◆ Peter
 - ◆ The disciples on the Emmaus road
 - ◆ The apostles
 - ◆ Seven by the lake of Tiberius
 - ◆ James at Bethany
 - ◆ Paul near Damascus
 - ◆ Stephen near Jerusalem
 - ◆ Paul in the temple
 - ◆ 400 believers in Galilee
 - ◆ A multitude at his ascension
 - ◆ John on the Isle of Patmos
5. Jesus testified himself that he had died and risen again in Revelation 1:18. He said: *"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen and have the keys of hell and of death."*
 - The resurrection proves that Jesus is Jesus!
 - It proves that Jesus is the Savior!
 - It proves that Jesus is who he said he was!
 - It proves that our faith is not in vain!
 - It proves that we have everything to live for!

Question: But what does the resurrection mean to me personally?

Question: How does it affect my life this morning?

Question: How does it encourage and console my heart?

Question: How does it provoke me to good works?

Question: How does it convict me and lead to change?

Question: Why remember the resurrection and meditate upon it this morning?

(Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:8)

"Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead."

Question: Why did Paul tell Timothy to remember this?

Question: Why does God tell us to remember this?

Good Reasons to Remember the Resurrection

(And how it affects the way we live.)

I. The Resurrection Means That The Sacrifice For Your Sin Has Been Accepted

(Romans 4:25) *"Who (Jesus) was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification."*

(It's a two-fold promise)

1. **"Christ was delivered for our offenses"** means:

- His death was a reality.
- His death was payment for sin.
- His death made it possible for God to forgive us.
- His death had atoning power to cover sin.

2. **"And was raised again for our justification"** means:

Question: How do we know Jesus takes away sin?

Question: How do we know our sins are gone from our account?

(Romans 4:25) *"He was raised again for our justification"* means:

- Easter is the seal that Jesus did the job.
- Easter is God's endorsement that His justice has been fulfilled.
- Easter is heaven's approval that the Father has accepted his Son's payment for sin.
- Easter is the divine assurance that your justification has been secured!

I Peter 2:24 records:

"Who his own self" bore our sins in his own body on the tree."

(But how do we know God's holy demand was satisfied?)

- Easter declared that Jesus lives!
- His life is the guarantee of our justification.

How do we know it?

- Because if our substitute had not fully paid the debt for sin, Jesus would still be under the power of death!

Can we be sure? Romans 8:33

"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justified.

Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea, rather that is risen again."

In other words

- Easter proves that God was pleased with what Jesus did and,

- Easter proves that you can now live free from all guilt and condemnation (and enjoy the power of a clear conscience).

II. The Resurrection Means That You Have A Sympathetic High Priest Interceding For You

(Hebrews 7:25) *"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

(Romans 8:34) *"Christ is risen again, and is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."*

Question: How does this encourage you?

Question: How does Easter lift our spirits?

- Jesus lived life on earth like you and me.
- Jesus knew sorrow and heartache like you and me.
- Jesus felt pain and infirmity like you and me.

What's the big deal?

- The big deal is, when we stand by the empty tomb and realize that Jesus has power over death.
- Then we believe that every issue smaller than death, he is in control of as well.

In other words:

- If Jesus can deal with death victoriously, which is the greater issue,
- Then Jesus can intercede for every other issue in your life.
 1. He can turn your crosses into your advantage.
 2. He can turn your pain into His gain.
 3. He can turn your scars into stars.
 4. He can give grace greater than every trial, pain, loss and disappointment.

Why?

- Because he ever lives to be your faithful High Priest, and he is touched with the feeling of your infirmities.
- If you're broken hearted, he doesn't chide you, he invites you to come boldly to him and find grace and help in time of need.
- If you're battling temptation, the Lord promises to sustain you in Romans 8:11, *"The spirit that raised Christ up from the dead shall quicken your mortal body."*

Why?

V. 12 *"To mortify the deeds of the flesh nature."*

III. The Resurrection Means That You Have A Lively Hope That Produces Great Joy

(I Peter 1:3) *"Blessed be the God and the Father who has begotten us again unto a lively hope."*

How? By the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

- It's an outburst of joy from Peter's lips!
- It's an outburst of power and praise from his heart!
- It's a characteristic of all true believers!

What's the big deal?

- Peter is writing to believers who are suffering great persecution.
- In 1:6, the believers were "in heaviness from manifold temptations."
- In 1:7, there was "a great trial of faith."
- In 1:8 though, Peter declares we rejoice anyway with "joy unspeakable and full of glory."

Remember now, this is Peter.

- After the crucifixion, Peter was downcast, despondent and despairing.
- So much so that Peter turned to the other disciples and said, *"I'm going fishing."* (Or, I need to just get away for a while and collect my thoughts.)

But in I Peter he declares: *"Blessed be the name of the Lord."*

What transformed his heart?

- It was Easter Sunday when the resurrection begot in him a lively hope!

What is a "Lively Hope"?

- It is a hope that is certain and substantial.
- It is a hope that is vibrant and full of power.
- It is a hope that can hold us in great trial.
- It is a hope that sustains us in pain and sorrow.
- It is a hope that enables us to go through the very worst that life can throw our way!

IV. The Resurrection Means That There Is Life Beyond The Grave

Question: How many of you are looking forward to a brand new body?

Question: How many of you could handle the rapture if it occurred today?

Know what Easter means?

1. It means that one day the believer will be in heaven with a brand new body.
2. It means you'll not be some vague spirit floating back and forth
3. It means a four-fold body change. (I Corinthians 15:42-52)

"Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." (v. 51) "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (v. 52)

It's a four-fold body change. (Vs. 42-44)

1. Sown in corruption; raised in incorruption.
2. Sown in dishonor; raised in glory.
3. Sown in weakness; raised in power.
4. Sown in a natural body; raised in a spiritual body.

What's it all mean? It means:

1. We're put in the ground, but will come out of the ground.
2. We're buried out of sight, but will one day be seen again.
3. We're embalmed and subject to decay, but will be raised with a glorified body.

In other words,

- Gold's Gym, your exercise bike, your treadmill, jogging, Step-master, Thigh-master, Stair-aster, aerobics, sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, Ab-flex, vitamins and all the health food available
- Even Slim Fast, Nutra-System, Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig
- Will not prevent us from death, dying and decay. But that's okay.

Why?

(V. 54, the last six words) ***"Death is swallowed up in victory."***

The words **"swallowed up"** mean five things:

1. To absorb
2. To drown out
3. To destroy
4. To remove
5. To abolish

Fact: The power of death will be destroyed and brought to an end. How?

(V. 57) *"Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

...No more sting, and no more graves.

...No more Aspirin, Anacin, Bufferin or Tylenol.

...No more doctors, prescriptions, hospitals or ambulances.

...No more funeral homes, coroners, death certificates or caskets.

...No more goodbyes, tears, flowers or cemetery lots to pick out.

...No more death, sorrow, loneliness or widows.

Why not?

"Death is swallowed up in victory." A promise for the saved!!!

(I Thessalonians 4:17) *"So shall we ever be with the Lord."*

(II Corinthians 4:14) *"Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise us up also."*

(John 14:19) *"Because I live, ye shall live also."*

(II Corinthians 5:8) *"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."*

V. The Resurrection Means There Is A Future Judgment Tomorrow, That I Must Prepare For Today.

Fact: There is only one bad thing about the resurrection. What is it?

Fact: Not everyone will enjoy it!

(Acts 24:15) *"There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."*

(Daniel 12:2) *"Those that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life,
and some to everlasting damnation."*

(John 5:28, 29) *"All that are in the graves shall hear his voice and shall come forth; some to the resurrection of life, and some to the resurrection of damnation."*

Question: Which group will you be in?

Question: Which direction will you be going?

Question: Which road to eternity are you on today?

Someone once said that there are seven seasons in life.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. The Thrills | 3. The Hills | 5. The Chills | 7. The Wills |
| 2. The Spills | 4. The Ills | 6. The Pills | |

In an old British cemetery near Windsor Castle, there is a tombstone with this inscription on it:

*"Pause my friend as you walk by,
As you are now so once was I,
As I am now so you will be,
Prepare my friend to follow me."*

(A passerby added these two lines)

*"To follow you is not my intent,
Until I know which way you went."*

Ask: Do you know which way you are going?

Ask: Do you live now for the things that will outlive you?

Ask: Do you know beyond a doubt that you are ready to meet the Lord?

Ask: Are you 100% sure that you are saved and stand righteous before God?

Conclusion

(In Mark 16:4 the Bible says)

"The stone was rolled away."

Question: What stone was rolled away?

Answer: The stone that sealed the door of the tomb where Jesus was buried.

Question: Why was the stone rolled away?

Answer: Most people say, "So that Jesus could come out."

But that's not true at all.

- John said in John 20:19, "*Jesus cometh, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst of his disciples and said, peace be unto you.*"

In other words

- Jesus' resurrected body was independent of doors and indifferent to walls.
- Jesus' resurrected body was not inhibited by material doors, walls or stones; He walked through them after his resurrection.

Question: Then why was the stone rolled away?

Answer: Not so that Jesus could come out, but so that inquirers could go in!

The "stone rolled away" was to speak to us.

- ◆ It tells about our entrance into salvation.
- ◆ It tells us about the only way to Jesus
- ◆ It speaks of an open door to eternal life.
- ◆ It invites us to come now and see.
- ◆ It reveals to us that Jesus indeed is risen.

The stone rolled away is inviting us.

- ◆ It's not to let Jesus out, but to let you in.
- ◆ It says, "today is the day of salvation."

AMEN!
Bill Kirk