



WHY THE RESURRECTION

PART 2 OF A 3 PART SERIES

WHY THE CROSS

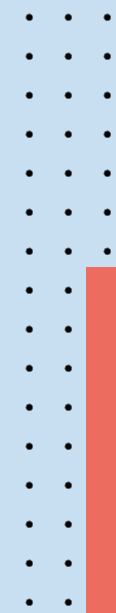
WHY THE RESURRECTION

WHY THE CHURCH

WHY THE RESURRECTION?

- Because sin brought death and separation from God – Christ conquered that by raising from the dead!
- Because Jesus told us He would raise from the dead and be seated at the right hand of God. (*Matthew 26:64, Acts 5:31, 7:55*)

“You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”
(Matthew 26:44)



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

- It became the dividing line between the early Jewish leaders and the Apostles (Acts 5:30-32, 38-39)
- It was the central component of the Apostles teaching and preaching. (Acts 2,3,4,5, | Peter 1:21-23, | Corinthians 15, Philippians 3:20-21)
- Even the greatest of skeptics since the time of the Apostles, conclude that if the resurrection actually took place, then it must be what it claims to be – a direct revelation from God.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

“The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” (Acts 5:30-32)

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Philippians 3:20-21)



WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

- Our message would be without hope!
(1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 18)
- All claims by Christ and His followers would be erroneous and unreliable. (Matthew 12:39-40, John 2:18-22, Matthew 26:63-64)



WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished” (1 Corinthians 15:14-18)



WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

- There would have been no early church
- There would have been no miracles performed by the Apostles for where would their authority and power have come from?
- There would have been no Paul (as we know him) and no letters to guide us toward true faith
- The hope and faith displayed by Mary, Martha, Mary Magdalene and other influential women of the New Testament would have been pointless



WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

- There would have been no Gospel according to John and no letters from him to guide us toward the light and toward true love
- There would have been no Timothy (as we know him) for why would he follow Jesus and be mentored by Paul if the resurrection were not true.
- There would have been no Lydia from Philippi to aid in the establishment of the church there for in whom would they have placed their hope



SURVEY SAID.....

- If Jesus Christ had remained buried in the grave, then the story of His life and death would have remained buried with Him. Thus, no need for the Great Commission or the New Testament.
- Death would still be our final enemy and we would have no hope. Our preaching about the resurrection would be in vain and foolish.



SURVEY SAID.....

- The founding of America probably would have been completely different as it probably would not have been to obtain religious freedom but for personal or patriotic gain.
- The “good Samaritan” principles, philanthropic activities, or basic good will (i.e., hospitals and orphanages) of people would have no real basis, drive or motivation.

SURVEY SAID.....

- It is highly probable that women would not have many of the freedoms that they do today. There would probably be a lack of basic human rights, and slavery of any “weaker class” might still exist.
- Our celebration of holidays would be dramatically different, much of our music, art, literature, would look so much different without the hope that the resurrection brings!



SURVEY SAID.....

- Without the influence of the church in history the political, religious, and social makeup of our world would be so different. Islam potentially would have gone unchecked in the Middle Ages.
- Although our present world may seem chaotic at times.....imagine the chaos of today; if as far back as the Roman Empire many had many not embraced Christ and lived for Him?



SURVEY SAID.....

- Since the Jews have faced potential extinction on so many occasions; what would have held various tyrants from eliminating them altogether...and for that matter any other unwanted race?



SURVEY SAID.....

- “If no resurrection – then no glorious expectation that we would spend eternity with Jesus who rose from the grave. There would be no incentive to live a holy life and use Jesus as our perfect example.” As a result each man would be his own island doing as he/she seemed fit to do. If you remove the hope of the resurrection then the moral framework of our society would be left to the best man can muster on his own, all the while greed and personal gain would continue to chip away at any good that we can produce.



William Evans writes; “If the resurrection of Christ can be successfully denied, if it can be proven to be absolutely untrue, then the whole fabric of the Gospel falls to pieces, the whole structure of the Christian religion is shaken at its foundation, and the very arch of Christianity crumbles into dust. Then it has wrought only imaginary changes, deluded its most faithful adherents, deceived and disappointed the hopes of its most devoted disciples, and the finest moral achievements that adorn the pages of the history of the Christian church have been based upon a falsehood”
(**William Evans, The Great Doctrines of the Bible page 85**)

If the Resurrection were not true, then there would be no basis for truth!

- It would negate the Apostles teaching
- It would negate the death of Christ
- It would negate the birth of Christ
- It would even place the Old Testament Scriptures in jeopardy of being proven false
- If the Old and New Testament were proven false, what would be our basis for morality?



EVIDENCES FOR THE RESURRECTION

- An Empty Tomb! (Matthew 28:1-8, Mark 16:1-7, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-20)
 - Attested by the women who first visited the tomb
 - Attested by the angel
 - Attested by the other disciples
 - Attested by the Roman guards though they were later bribed to change their story (Matthew 28:11-15)

EVIDENCES FOR THE RESURRECTION

“Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” (Mark 16:1-7)

EVIDENCES FOR THE RESURRECTION

- The testimony of over 500 witnesses (see chart page 13)
- The testimony of Paul (1 Corinthians 15:1-19, Romans 8:11, Acts 9:1-9)
- The Testimony of Jesus Christ Himself (Revelation 1:17-18, John 20:20-29)
- The continual declaration by the Apostles
- The lack of credible early proof that He did not raise from the dead
- The continued teaching throughout 2000+ years of church history
- Present day believers who continue to teach the same

EVIDENCES FOR THE RESURRECTION

“So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Romans 8:8-11)



THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTED BODY

- His body was a real body, not a phantom, or like Casper the friendly ghost.
 - He had flesh and bones (Luke 24:36-43)
 - Thomas touched His flesh (John 20:20-29)
 - His physical wounds were evidenced



THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTED BODY

- His body was more than just a mere natural body (John 20:17, Acts 1:1-11)
- His body was immortal for it could not die again (Romans 6:9-10, Rev. 1:18)

RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

- “As to Christ Himself”

- “He was not made the Son of God because He resurrected, but was declared to be the Son of God by it” (Romans 1:4, Acts 10:34-42)
- “Had Christ remained in the grave as other men had done, there would have been no grounds to impose faith in Him. The empty tomb testifies of His deity”
- Had He not of raised from the dead His words would have been untrustworthy and unreliable. (Matt. 12:13-42, Matt. 28:18-20, John 2:13-22)

RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God - the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Romans 1:1-4)



RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

- “As to the believer in Christ”
 - We have an assurance of being made acceptable with God. (Romans 4:25, 5:1-21)
 - We have a High Priest interceding on our behalf (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25)
 - We have everything we need for life and service (Ephesians 1:19-21)
 - We have assurance of our own resurrection and immortality. (I Thess. 4:14, II Cor. 4:14, Jn. 14:19)

RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 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 1:18-21)



RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

- “As to the world”
 - “The certainty of a resurrection”
(1 Corinthians 15:22, Revelation 20:11-15)
 - “The certainty of a judgment day”
(Acts 17:31, Hebrews 9:27)

RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)



RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)



RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.. (Acts 17:29-31)

NOW WHAT?

- The story does not end at the resurrection for Jesus ascended to the “Right Hand of the Father” and He remains there as our advocate (High Priest) and intercessor. (Acts 1:9-11, 7:56, Rom. 8:34, Heb. 7:25, Rev. 5)
- Jesus told His disciples that although He was leaving them; He would return for them. (John 14:1-3)

NOW WHAT?

“After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky?

This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:9-11)

NOW WHAT?

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3)

NOW WHAT?

- During this period of “anticipation” we continue to await His return and are not left comfortless for the Holy Spirit provides us with everything that we need to endure in a world that despises our cause. (John 14:12-31)
- It doesn't even end there for we are told that a day is coming when this same Jesus will return in the same manner that He left. (Acts 1:9-11)

NOW WHAT?

- “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)
- “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)
- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)