

## THE UNIQUE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

Easter Service 04/04/2021 @ Concord Church

There are three main reasons why the doctrine of resurrection occupies a special and central place in the Christian Faith.

The 1<sup>st</sup> reason is that the resurrection is God's own vindication (showing to be right and justified) of Jesus Christ. Christ was declared to be the Son of God with Power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4).

Previously, Christ had been brought before two human courts—first the religious court of the Jewish council, and then the secular court of the Roman governor Pontius pilate. Both these courts had rejected Jesus' claim to be the Son of God and had condemned Him to death.

Furthermore, both these courts had united in seeking to prevent any breaking-open of the grave of Jesus. To this end, the Jewish council had provided their special seal, and the Roman governor had provided an armed guard of soldiers.

However, on the third day God intervened. The seal was broken, the arm guard was paralyzed, and Jesus came forth from the tomb. By this act God reversed the decision of the Jewish council and the Roman governor, and He publicly vindicated the claim of Christ to be the sinless Son of God.

The second main reason of the importance of resurrection is that it is the sure seal upon God's offer of forgiveness & salvation to every repentant sinner who will put his faith in Christ. { *Christ was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification* (Romans 3:25)}.

This shows that the sinner's justification is dependant upon Christ being raised again from the dead. Had Christ remained on the cross or in the tomb, God's promise to the sinner of

salvation & eternal life, could never have been fulfilled. It is only the risen Christ, received and confessed by faith—brings to the sinner pardon, peace, eternal life and victory over sin.

Holy Bible says in Romans 10:9 *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus (or Jesus as Lord) and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”*.

Salvation is dependant upon two things: (1) Openly confessing Jesus as Lord (2) believing in the heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. Thus, saving faith includes faith in the resurrection. There can be no salvation for those who do not believe in the resurrection of Christ.

If Christ is not raised from the dead, then He has no power to pardon or to save the sinner. But if He is risen, as the Scripture states, then this is logical proof of His power to pardon & to save,

Hebrews 7:25 reads *“Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them”*.

Christ’s resurrection is an absolute, and logical necessity as a basis of God’s offer of salvation.

Further in Scriptures we see Apostle Paul speaking to the Corinthian believers says:

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is vain and your faith is also vain” (1-Cor 15:14)

“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile: you are still in your sins! (1-Cor 15:17).

Finally, the third reason for the importance of the resurrection is that it constitutes the culmination of all our hopes as Christians and the supreme goal of our life of faith here on earth.

Apostle Paul says that the resurrection is the supreme goal and consummation of all his earthly endeavors. Speaking of the motivating purpose of his life as a Christian, Paul says: *“That I may know Him(Christ) and the power of His resurrection, and*

*the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me”.*(Phil 3:10-12).

Notice particularly the two phrases “that I may know...the power of His resurrection” and “if, by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Apostle Paul did not intend to let any thing in this world prevent him from attaining to the consummation of all his beliefs & labors—the resurrection of the dead.

In this respect, the attitude of every Christian believer should be the same as that of Paul. If there is no resurrection, then the Christian faith & the Christian life are a pathetic deception. In the words of 1-Cor 15:19 “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable”.

On the other hand, if we really believe in the resurrection, our life’s aim and purpose will be like Paul’s: TO ATTAIN IT. May God help us to do that as we celebrate the RESURRECTION DAY/EASTER 2021.....Amen.