

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Value of The Resurrection

Selected Passages

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SermonAudio Blurb: Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ there is no Christian faith. This in spite of untold number of people claiming the title of Christian without believing and resting in the fact of the resurrection. They are to be pitied, for there is no salvation that awaits them. But for the true Christian the time of Easter gives us a wonderful opportunity to consider the many reasons why we delight in the resurrection of our Lord.

I. Introduction.

- A. This is the day that millions throughout the world celebrate Easter.
- B. The reason is obvious to you—Christ has risen.
 - 1. And, so what?
 - 2. In the most simplest of reasons, without the resurrection of Jesus Christ no person could ever hope to be saved from their sins.
 - 3. To reject the fact of the resurrection is to reject the way of salvation. It is foundational to having the right to be called a ‘Christian.’
 - 4. Of course there are many who would say they believe in the resurrection of Christ.
 - 5. But, facts don’t save you. Agreeing with facts about Jesus is not the same thing as confessing them as true. The only thing that saves you is Jesus.
 - 6. So to simply accept that Jesus has risen does not mean you’re a Christian. It is to believe it for the right reason, with the right understanding, and with the right hope.
- C. So my goal today is very simple: It is to speak of the value of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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1. For some here I hope that God will make the truth that Christ is risen precious to you. That you might finally look to Christ for your salvation. That you might learn why we are to rejoice in Jesus Christ.
2. For the rest I hope to show you a little more of the glory of what occurred 2 thousand years ago. That you might treasure the glory and wisdom of God. That you might more fully cherish the hope that the resurrection brings us.

II. The Value of The Resurrection.

- A. First, it vindicated Christ's claim to be God's Son.
 1. Romans 1:4.
 2. Paul makes his opening comments to this great letter to the church in Rome.
 - a. A bond-servant of Christ Jesus.
 - b. The task as a slave to Christ was the gospel of God.
 - c. The source of this gospel was in the Scriptures themselves.
 - d. The content of the gospel was the Son of God, Jesus Christ.
 - (1) He speaks of Christ's humanity in verse 3. The line of David is important for the bible prophesied that the savior must come through the line of David.
 - (2) But notice verse 4.
 - (a) Why do I believe that Jesus is the true Christ?
 - (b) Why do I believe that He is God in human flesh?
 - (c) Why do I believe that He is the Son of God?
 - (d) Because of the resurrection.

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- e. As you read through the N.T. you will find three basic portraits of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) We see Him as a man walking upon this earth. This is brought to the fullest sense when we see Him hated and mocked, hanging on the Cross.
 - (2) Secondly, And we see Him seated in Heaven at the right hand of the Father in all glory and power.
 - (3) Thirdly, we see Him coming again in power and glory to bring life to those who hoped in Him and judgment to those who rejected Him.

- f. But it is the resurrection that vindicated Jesus' claims while He was on the earth.
 - (1) He had over and over declared himself to be the Son of God.
 - (2) To be the Son is to be equal with God.
 - (3) But there he was, hanging on the cross. Bloody and defeated. He was beaten and covered in spit.
 - (4) Try to get that picture in your mind as you here these next words:

Matthew 27:39-43, "And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him, and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we shall believe in Him. "He trusts in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He takes pleasure in Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

- (5) Listen carefully. It was impossible for them to imagine that the Son of God could ever be found on the Cross!
 - (a) But that is exactly where He had to be!

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- (b) That is what He had come to do!
- (c) Who else would bear my sin? And yours!?
 - i) You?
 - ii) Only the fool thinks he can stand up under the law of God, a law that demands utter perfection.
 - iii) All of us stand condemned in our sin.
 - iv) But the bible says that death is the payment of sin.
 - v) So there He hung. The One who said he was the Son of God. Staying on the Cross that he might do what no other man could do.
 - vi) To be a perfect sacrifice for sin.
- (6) The religious leaders were saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we shall believe in Him. He trusts in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He takes pleasure in Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.’
 - (a) That is the way of sinners. Always trying to tell God what it is that he is to do. What they demand from Him.
 - (b) They did not see their sin.
 - (c) They were not burdened by the weight of guilt before God.
 - (d) So to them, there was no value in the Cross. They loved to show off their goodness and self-righteousness.

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- (e) In their mind God would never have His Son be on the Cross .
 - (f) Notice that they said, “if He takes pleasure in Him.”
 - (g) But though they were religious, they did not understand. Isaiah 53:10 said this, “But the LORD was **pleased** To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering”
 - (h) The Father was pleased with His Son, so pleased that He killed Him there on the Cross.
 - (i) Why? For sin.
- 3. But if that is where it ended then Jesus is shown to be a fraud. He claimed to be the Son of God. If this is true then He is God. And if this is true then death cannot hold Him.
 - 4. And so when He rose again just as He said He would it showed that He was exactly who he had claimed.
 - 5. So the resurrection vindicated Christ’s claims to be the Son of God. But it did more.
- B. Second, it validated Jesus’ work on the Cross.
- 1. Romans 4:25.
 - 2. Paul has just shown earlier in this chapter that the Law of God cannot bring a person into salvation. It cannot make a person righteous.
 - 3. Its purpose was to bring the wrath of God upon us. Why? Because the Law shows us what we are....sinners.
 - 4. Then he began to talk about Abraham and how he is the father of all who believe.
 - a. This speaks about Gen 15:6. (Look at Romans 4:18 ff)

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- b. So in verse 22 we read that God reckoned him as righteous. He declared him righteous.
- c. But how? By the Law? No. By doing good things? No.
- d. By believing God and His promises.
- e. But then vss 23-24 calls us to believe that same God.
 - (1) Notice to believe **in** Him. Not about Him. Not that he simply exists. But to believe in Him.
 - (2) This speaks of a belief that is filled with hope and obedience.
 - (3) It is sort of like when a father tells his child to jump from something and that he will catch him. He may say, “Do you believe in me?” And the child shows it by jumping. Knowing that the father will be faithful to catch him.
- f. This God who we are to believe in is the one who raised Jesus from the dead. But why?
- g. Verse 24.
 - (1) The work Jesus did on the Cross was to atone, to pay for and remove our sins.
 - (2) But the resurrection was the thing that allows us to be justified (explain its meaning).
 - (3) He had to deal with our sin and the only way to remove it was to have it place on himself and bear the penalty of sin, which is death.
 - (4) But how would you and I know that it was accepted? How would we know that sin was destroyed?
- h. Death exists because of sin. We die because we are sinners.

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- (1) Death always wins in the end.
 - (2) But when Christ rose again it was proof that His Father accepted His sacrifice on our behalf.
 - (3) And therefore He is able to truly declare all who believe in Him to be righteous.
 - i. This is why a person must believe not only that Christ died for their sin, but also rose again.
 - (1) To reject the resurrection is to reject the death.
 - (2) They are inseparable.
 5. So we have His work on the Cross being proven to be accepted by God.
- C. It is the basis for every true believer's hope of his own resurrection.
1. 1 Cor. 15:20-23.
 - a. Notice how in verse 20 his resurrection is called the "firstfruits."
 - b. Lev. 23:10-11, "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.'"
 - c. This was a call to believe God. To have faith in Him.
 - d. Explain Lev. 23.
 - (1) The full harvest could not be brought in until the firstfruits were offered to God.
 - (2) Here, Christ is the firstfruit, offered to God.
 - (3) And all who believe in Him is the promised harvest to come.

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2. Paul is saying that Christ's resurrection guarantees our resurrection because Christ's was part of a bigger plan of God. Just like the firstfruits of a harvest was not the whole harvest.
3. So he says that if we are "in Christ," meaning we are saved, we will live. We shall be made alive (22)
4. But there was an order (23).
5. Do you belong to Christ? Does he possess you?
6. The bible gives us a great promise, that when the Christian dies his spirit is immediately with the Lord in Heaven.
7. And that there will be a time when his body shall be raised and changed and that Christian shall live forevermore in heaven, not just his spirit, but all of him!
8. As 1 John 3:2 says, ". . . we shall be like Him."
 - a. Think of that great promise and let it wash over your souls for a moment.
 - b. Do you weary of your sin? Do you groan under your ability to wander and live in foolishness?
 - c. Have you not cried out in sadness and mourning because once again you find yourself doing the very things you hate?
 - (1) That is the life of a Christian.
 - (2) The non-believer goes on his way with little concern for his soul. Or, he figures that he can fix it somehow, get his life straightened out.
 - (3) But of course this is impossible for no person in this room can change the heart.
 - (4) But when you speak to a true believer you see the battle clearly drawn. The aching over sin, the awareness of weakness. The ever growing

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realization of the depths of your ability to fall
and stumble.

III. Conclusion.

- A. The resurrection. An event in time and space but an event that transcends time and is the basis of our entrance into eternal life.
- B. Yes you must believe in the resurrection to be saved, but not the facts of the resurrection....the Lord of the resurrection.
 - 1. Do you?
 - 2. Have you a love for the Lord? Do you, when all else is said, declared that Jesus Christ is your only hope; that he is your righteousness?
 - 3. If that is what your heart cries out, then you are saved. You are His.
 - 4. I tell you again, turn from your sins. Turn to the living God and trust in His Son who alone is the basis of salvation.
 - 5. Come to Christ, with nothing in your hands but the truth of your utter wickedness. Cry out now that He would save you from your sins.

The Sting of Death

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. - (1 Corinthians 15:56)

What an expression—‘the sting of death’ And according to our text, it is sin. But Jesus removed the sting by dying on the cross and paying the price for our sins.

While walking in the field one day with my two young sons, a bee from one of my hives made a beeline for the elder boy and stung him just above the eye. He quickly brushed it away and threw himself in the grass, kicking and screaming for help. The bee went straight for the younger son and began buzzing around his head. The next thing I knew he too was lying in the grass, yelling at the top of his lungs. But I picked him up and told him to stop crying. “That bee is harmless,” I assured him. “It can’t hurt you. It has lost its sting.” I took the

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frightened lad over to his elder brother, showed him the little black stinger in his brow, and said, “The bee can still scare you, but it is powerless to hurt you. Your brother took the sting away by being stung.”

Then I explained 1 Corinthians 15:56 by telling them that the sting of death is sin. But our Elder Brother the Lord Jesus hung on the cross and took the sting out of death by dying in our place. Since the law demands satisfaction only once, death is powerless to hurt us if we accept the work of Christ in our behalf. The unbeliever is filled with fear because he must face God with his sin. But for us, death’s sting is gone; it was left in Jesus. Death may still buzz around and scare us at time, but it can no longer harm us.

M. R. DeHaan, M.D., Our Daily Bread, Monday August 6