

## THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the power of the resurrection of Christ !
2. 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; "
3. The resurrection of Christ is powerful!!! Because...
  - a. It really happened - accounts in Matt., Mark, Luke, and John
  - b. It was necessary - 1 Cor. 15
  - c. It is remembered - plan of salvation, L.S. Weekly
4. The resurrection of Christ is the keystone of Christian faith! Without it everything in Christianity would be useless and meaningless.

### Discussion

#### I. THE RESURRECTION REALLY HAPPENED

##### A. The records

1. Matt. 27:12-66 Matt. 28:1-17
2. Mark 16:1-14
3. Luke 23:50-56 Luke 24:1-46
4. John 20:1-29
5. Other references in the N.T. - Acts 1:2 2:31-32
6. O.T. prophecies had predicted it !
  - a. Ps. 16:10 "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."
  - b. Acts 2:27 - Peter quotes this verse in his sermon here in Acts 2

## B. Many witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus

1. On that first Sunday morning when he was risen Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to the tomb.
  - a. There was an earth quake and an angel of the Lord rolled back the stone from the door and showed them an empty grave.
  - b. As they returned to tell the other Disciples, Jesus met them saying, "Rejoice", (asv) and they came and took hold of his feet and worshiped Him [Matthew 28:1-10].
2. Jesus appeared to Peter the afternoon of the resurrection day. [Luke 24:34] "Saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon!"
3. He appeared to all the apostles, except Thomas, on the resurrection evening. John 20:19-25
4. A week later He appeared to the apostles again. Thomas who had doubted the story of the others was told, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side. And be not faithless, but believing." [John 20:27]
5. Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 15:1-9 that on one occasion Jesus was seen by over 500 brethren at once.
6. All these witnesses saw Him after his resurrection. They saw him eat food as He had before. They saw the wounds of His crucifixion. They heard his voice as he talked with him. They felt his body and His wounds. They saw Jesus alive after He was raised from the dead.

C. What do men say about the resurrection? They say it did not happen!

1. Swoon theory = "He had just fainted, or was unconscious. He was placed in the tomb though he was not dead. In the coolness of the grave and the healing effect of the spices wrapped around his body he revived consciousness. He rolled the stone away, slipped out past the guards and went to the disciples. They nursed him back to health and presented him as the risen Lord. Forty days later his wounds got the better of Him. Just before he died he assembled the disciples and parted from them by walking into a cloud. Though he was crawling off to die, the Eleven believed he had ascended into heaven."
2. Answer to this theory!
  - a. The Roman soldiers said that Jesus was dead - John 19:31-34
  - b. Those who buried him knew he was dead. They would have noticed if there was any sign of life! But he was dead!!
    - (1) He had been beaten
    - (2) They nailed him to a cross - he hung there for 6 hours
    - (3) His side was pierced with a Roman sword
    - (4) He did not faint - he died!
  - c. If Christ had only fainted on the cross and then was revived in the coolness of the tomb, How does one account for Him being in His weakened condition moving a stone from the inside that weighed approximately 1 ½ tons without anyone noticing? There were soldiers guarding the tomb.
3. If the swoon theory is true
  - a. If Jesus did not die on the cross.

- b. When did He die?
  - c. What happened to him?
  - d. If he lived on the earth, then the enemies would have captured him and then used it against those followers who were teaching the resurrection !
- D. There are many such false theories presented by men who do not believe that Christ was resurrected. They are all false. Jesus was resurrected from the grave!

## **II. THE RESURRECTION WAS NECESSARY - 1 Cor. 15**

- A. Scriptures teach the necessity
  - 1. 1 Cor. 15:1-32
  - 2. Gospel included death, burial, resurrection
- B. If Christ is not raised....
  - 1. Preaching is vain - v. 14
  - 2. Faith is vain - v. 14
  - 3. False witnesses - v. 15
  - 4. You are yet in your sins - v. 17
  - 5. They which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished - v. 18
  - 6. We are most miserable - v. 19
- C. Christ is the first fruits - v. 20
  - 1. Christ was the first to be resurrected never to die again.
  - 2. Col. 1:18 **And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence.**
  - 3. We also hope to do the same - Phil. 3:11 **If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.**

### III. THE RESURRECTION IS REMEMBERED

#### A. Plan of salvation

1. Faith - Our faith or trust is based on his resurrection Rom. 10:9-10 - we must believe that God raised him from the dead in order to be saved
2. Repentance - Faith in the resurrection motivates our repentance - Acts 17:30-31
  - a. Commands all to repent --- There will be a day of judgment
  - b. Assured of this because He raised Him from the dead
3. Confession - Rom 10:9-10 - we are not ashamed to admit that we believe Jesus was raised from the dead.
4. Baptism
  - a. Rom. 6:1-12
  - b. Dead in sin -- Buried with Him in baptism
  - c. Raised to walk or live a new life
  - d. Christ was raised to die no more
  - e. We are raised to a life separate from sin !
  - f. 1 Pet. 3:21 The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the **resurrection of Jesus Christ:**

#### B. What about Easter?

1. Word is found one time in KJV - Acts 12:4 "And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people."

2. That word translated Easter is found 29 times in the N.T. Every other time it is translated correctly as "Passover".
3. "Perhaps there never was a more unhappy, not to say absurd, translation than that in our text."<sup>1</sup>
4. All other translations correctly translate the Greek word as Passover!
5. The religious world today is observing the Resurrection. But there is no authority in the N.T. for such an annual observance.
6. Instead in the N.T. we are authorized to observe the...

### C. Lord's Supper

1. Acts 20:7
2. 1 Cor. 11:26 "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."
  - a. Shew = proclaim, declare, speak of
  - b. The partaking of the Lord's Supper is to remember the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
3. The death would be meaningless or vain unless Christ had been resurrected
4. We observe this Lord's Supper weekly as a reminder of this resurrection

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<sup>1</sup>Adam Clarke's Commentary

## CONCLUSION

1. We did not see Christ after he was raised from the grave.
  - a. But we believe in it just as strongly as the ones who saw him with their own eyes
  - b. Jesus said "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." Jn. 20:29b
  - c. We believe because we have Faith! Trust in the accounts !! The reports of eye witnesses
2. Phil. 3:10 There is power in the resurrection - Rom. 1:4 And declared [to be] the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:
  - a. It is the central point of the Gospel
  - b. Without the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus from the dead there can be no Christianity.
  - c. Because there was a resurrection of Jesus we believe there will be another great resurrection day.
  - d. John 5:28 -29
3. To be in the resurrection of life we must obey the gospel - be buried with Christ in baptism.
4. He that rejects the resurrection must reject the whole of Christianity.
  - a. True Christians believe Christ was actually resurrected from the dead and lives today.  
Their lives show their faith in the resurrection.
  - b. Do you believe in and serve our risen Savior?