

140413 The Resurrection Unlocks Everything!

Introduction:

- Ie. Keys, if you could have the key to unlock every good thing in the world lock...Mt 16:19 “*I will give you the keys to the kingdom...*” What would that key be? I think it would be understanding the resurrection. Jesus now holds the keys of death and hell (Rev 1:17,18). He has the power to lock up and the power to unlock.
- The Resurrection is the very core of the Christian faith! If Christ is not raised from the dead then my preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
- The driving truth in this study on the resurrection is this: **It is God’s faithfulness to His covenant that God will resurrect the dead.** It is the covenant with God that guarantees our resurrection.
- Review: The Sadducees try to trick Jesus with a question: Whose wife will she be? Mt 22:23-33
 - What is resurrection from the dead?
 - Why do people not believe?
 - Was it important to Jesus?
- My goal this morning is three fold. To show you that the resurrection declares Jesus deity/identity. That the resurrection confirms His Lordship. Three that the resurrection completes our salvation.

1. The Resurrection Declares His Deity/Identity

- a. The Resurrection from the dead is a declaration of his divine power, the divine reality of Christ.
 - i. The Jewish leaders demanded of Jesus in Jn 2:18 proof that he was God’s son. “*the Jewish leaders demanded, “What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.”*” NLT\ol>
 1. Jesus gave them this sign: *Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*” Jn 2:19
 - a. They shouted at Him while on the cross Mt 27:40-ff “*Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!*” NLT
 - b. They thought He could prove his identity by coming down off the cross. “*Come down and save yourself.*” “Small minded people, ‘You think it something that I would come down off this cross. I will give you something better. In three days I will come out of the grave!!!’” Jesus later gives them greater proof by coming up out of the grave. Victory over death, hell and the grave!
 - c. His disciples remembered this after the resurrection and they believed both the scriptures and what Jesus had said! The sign of His authority according to Jesus would be His death and resurrection.
 2. It was Thomas who declared in Jn 20:28 “My Lord and my God!” Somehow, (through Jesus resurrection) Thomas’ doubts were destroyed by the appearance of the resurrected Lord. And his conviction that Jesus is the Christ (God) prompted him to gloriously proclaim, “Lord!”
 - b. Long live the proclamation of Jesus: *I am the Resurrection and the Life!* Jn 11:23,26. That is His identity! That is who Jesus called Himself: Resurrection and Life!
 - c. The resurrection confirmed the identity of Jesus because in it so many OT scriptures were fulfilled.
 - i. “*I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the Lord.*” (Psalm 118:17, NKJV)
 - ii. “*After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.*” (Hosea 6:2, NKJV)
 - iii. “*“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes.”* (Hosea 13:14, NKJV) There are so many more scriptures. These are what Paul used to persuade Jews in the synagogues. He proved Jesus to be the Christ. The resurrection declares his authority and confirms His identity!

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- d. The whole cry of the book of Acts is the message that Jesus rose from the dead! And it was faith in Him that saved a soul from sin and sins power! (Acts 1:21-22; Acts 2:32-36; Acts 5:30-32; Acts 17:18)

The resurrection confirms and declares His deity! He is God!

2. Resurrection Confirms His Lordship

- a. Lordship simply means that He is the supreme authority over all things. Jesus is Lord!
- Acts 4:24 *“But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.”* (Acts 2:24, NLT) Lord over death! Ie. Some have said that there are two things for sure in life: death and taxes. Well Jesus pays taxes with gold coins from fish’s mouths and death is subject to Him! Death could not hold him down or in the ground! Nor will it ever hold him! By being raised up we know it will never hold Him nor all who believe in Him!
 - Because we died with Him, we will live with Him. Ro 6:9 *“We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.”* NLT
 - Rev 1:17,18 *“Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.”* NLT That is Lordship when you hold the keys of death and the grave in your hand. Death is swallowed up in victory. It no longer has a stinger. The grave no longer has authority to hold the righteous. 1 Corinthians 15:54-56 *“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.”* NKJV
- b. God has made Him both Lord and Christ, Acts 2:36 ³⁶ *“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”* NLT This is the Peters declaration at the end of his first sermon. He was already Lord before His death but the resurrection confirms that to us who believe.
- c. By His resurrection from the dead the Lordship of Christ is gloriously declared!

3. The Resurrection Completes Our Salvation

- a. When you know that Jesus is God. And that He is the Son of God. And that the Son of God died for you and I then the resurrection become critical to our salvation.
- b. This brings us to a critical and central point this morning: If Christ had not been raise from the dead, our salvation would not have been consummated or made possible. Paul said it this way: *“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still dead in your sins.”* 1 Cor 15:17
- “He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.”* (Romans 4:25, NLT)
 - Being made right with God is what we call justification (the free gift of righteousness given to those who believe.) This is the very heart of salvation! God’s nature put with us! Therefore through the resurrection of Christ our salvation has been completed!
- c. The problem of mankind is not only sin but death. Therefore salvation must be over sin and death.
- He dealt with sin in the cross.
 - He dealt with death in the resurrection. *“And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.”* (2 Timothy 1:10, NLT)
1. katargeo verb “broken the power of”- is a better translation than abolished (KJV, RSV, NASB) or destroyed (NIV). Because the word means “To make totally and completely inoperative” or ‘to put out of use.’ TDNT “Since death is still a fact in human life and thus

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has not actually been abolished, the better translation of this word is that *He broke the power of death*.

2. Thus satan's power over death has been broken. Not only did Christ rise victorious over death and Satan, but He also won this victory for all who belong to Him.
- iii. "By rising from the dead Christ has won the victory over both sin and death." *Renewal Theology* p 389. Rodman Williams Therefore beyond forgiveness and reconciliation is a new life in Christ Jesus...and to be alive with Him forever! For in His resurrection we too are raised up.
- d. 1 Peter 1:3 *It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.* NLT We can be born again because God raised Jesus from the dead!!!
- e. Because of the resurrection that Paul could say, that God, "*Made us alive together with Christ and raised us up with Him.* (Eph 2:5-6, Col 3:1)
- f. Paul longing a powerful prayer to God was that he wanted to know Christ and the power of His resurrection... because of what is available to us in this life. Phil 3:10 For this reason we believe in healing and we pray for the sick. We believe in deliverance and cast our evil spirits. We believe He provides and walk in His provision.

Conclusion:

- The resurrection declares the destruction of death. John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* NKJV