

**Introduction:**

- He is resurrected now what? How does the resurrection affect my life? Does it? It does if you will do the word searches I gave you the first week: Word search: resurrection, resurrected, raised up, raised, lifted, risen, rise, etc.
- The Gospels contain abundant testimony of the resurrection. The Book of Acts records the response of the early church to the reality of the resurrection. It was their message and they took it everywhere. The epistles totally hang upon the truth of the resurrection. And the Book of Revelation continually shows the reigning Christ conquering and ruling over all of His enemies bringing in the new heavens and new earth! The entire NT testifies of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

**I. What Is The Resurrection?**

- A. The word itself means to rise up, to awaken, to stir, to awaken from the dead.
  1. As Christian's, we understand the word resurrection to mean the raising up of Jesus to **Newness of Life** after having been dead for three days. He was brutally tortured, crucified and on the third day arose from the dead with a glorified body.
  2. We call His rising from the dead the resurrection! The resurrection of Jesus is the defining moment of our Christian faith. It is the hinge on which the entire Christian message hangs. Without it we have nothing!
- B. The Resurrection is significant because:
  1. The resurrection declares the identity, divinity, and Lordship of Jesus Christ.
  2. Secondly, it proved Christ's power to forgive sin, justify sinners and grant eternal life to those who believe.
  3. Thirdly, it reveals Christ's power over sin, death and hell.
  4. Fourth, it proves that physical death is not the end of human existence.
- C. The Resurrection Matters because:
  1. As a believer your entire salvation experience depends on Jesus resurrection.
  2. It was the main message of the apostles, the early church and the Biblical writers.
  3. It was the resurrection of Jesus that gave us a future and a hope.
  4. The same power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead resides in the heart of every believer.

**II. Resurrection - Gets Us Back To The Future**

- A. "The physical resurrection of Jesus, and his eternal possession of a physical resurrection body, give clear affirmation of the goodness of the material creation that God originally made: *""Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good..."* (Genesis 1:31, NKJV) Excerpt From: Wayne Grudem. "Systematic Theology." iBooks.
  1. What was lost in the garden was re-obtained in the resurrection. From the point that Adam and Eve were banished from the garden, God was making a way for man to return.
  2. Gen 3:22-24. Adam and Eve were put outside of their world known as the garden of Eden (Heb - garden of delight)

3. Jesus' physical resurrection body affirms the goodness of God's original creation of man not as a mere spirit but as a creature with a physical body that was "*very good.*" Jesus is the first physical man to return to the garden. He is "first fruits" from the dead.
  4. He is the first to go back to our future!
- B. We do not receive all of that new "resurrection life" when we become Christians. Our bodies remain as they are, still subject to weakness, aging, and physical death. But in our spirits, we are made alive with new resurrection power. But it is why we pray for the sick, and cast out devils. It is by faith that release resurrection power in ministry to others.
1. Explain what that looks like. Jesus had resurrection power at work in Him while on this earth. Yet death took him out because Jesus allowed it and because He had an appointment with death. This appointment was important to the Father and to us!
    - a) So He walked this earth with resurrection life in Him though He had an appointment with death/to die.
    - b) By faith, we too have the same power at work in us though death is certain. It is appointed unto us to die. He was the first to be freed from death caused by sin! He is "first fruits" from the dead! He is taking us back to the garden which is our future.
  2. Paul connects the resurrection of Christ with the spiritual power at work within us when he tells the Ephesians that he is praying that they would know "*what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places;*" (Ephesians 1:19-20, NKJV)
- C. The resurrection gets us back to the garden and to our future where we will physically live with God in bodily form like Jesus. There is a man in the midst of the Trinity!

### III. The Resurrection and Our Obedience

- A. How does resurrection power in us encourage and what does it motivate us to do? When you think of Christ now in heaven, does it cause you to focus more attention on things that will have eternal significance? Does it increase your assurance that you will someday be with him in heaven? " Lets look at three ethical considerations. Ethics is a standard of conduct, rules or practice. So how should the resurrection affect how we live life and what we practice/do?
- B. First we should work enthusiastically for the Lord. In 1 Corinthians 15, after a long discussion on resurrection Paul concludes: "*So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.*" (1 Corinthians 15:58, NLT)
1. Enthusiastically - Greek *hypereuperissos* - *Super abundant, in excess, extraordinarily!*  
This is to be normal for the Christian.
  2. "It is because Christ was raised from the dead, and we too shall be raised from the dead, that we should continue steadfastly in the Lord's work. This is because everything that we do to bring people into the kingdom and build them up will indeed have eternal significance, because we shall all be raised on the day when Christ re-

turns, and we shall live with him forever." Excerpt From: Wayne Grudem. "Systematic Theology," iBooks.

3. Resurrection confirms all Jesus taught so we should give ourselves whole heartedly (enthusiastically) to it.
  4. Resurrection gives us passion to preach. The resurrection of Jesus is the fuel that ignites our preaching to a lost world. Acts 3:21-4:2 Peter preached the resurrected Christ! *"These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead."* (Acts 4:2, NLT)
  5. The great commission (Mt 28:18-ff) was giving by a resurrected Jesus. IL. Talk about a pep talk from the coach!
  6. The resurrection should motivate us to share our faith with enthusiasm. And to administer the gifts we have been given with one another.
- C. Secondly, we should be motivated by the reward! Paul encourages us, when we think about the resurrection, to focus on our future heavenly reward as our goal. Paul sees the resurrection as a time when all the struggles of this life will be repaid.
1. But if Christ has not been raised and if there is no resurrection, then *"then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world,"* (1 Corinthians 15:17-19, NLT) *"And what value was there in fighting wild beasts—those people of Ephesus—if there will be no resurrection from the dead? And if there is no resurrection, "Let's feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!"*" (1 Corinthians 15:32, NLT)
  2. But because Christ has been raised, and because we have been raised with him, we are to seek for a heavenly reward and set our mind on things of heaven: *"Since you have been raised [past tense) to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory."* (Colossians 3:1-4, NLT)
  3. "What we do in life echoes in eternity!" Maximus - from Gladiator
- D. A third ethical application of the resurrection is the obligation to stop yielding to sin in our lives.
1. When Paul says we are to consider ourselves *"dead to the power of sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus"* (Rom. 6:11) by virtue of the resurrection of Christ and his resurrection power within us, he then goes on immediately to say, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies. . . . Do not yield your members to sin" (Rom. 6:12-13).
    - a) The fact that we have this new resurrection power over the domination of sin in our lives is used by Paul as a reason to encourage us not to sin any more.
    - b) My faith is in the completed work of Christ. My faith activates the resurrection power of Jesus Christ in me. I am alive to God, through faith in Christ. Therefore I am to consider myself dead to sin and alive to God.
    - c) The resurrection allows me to share in His righteousness, by faith. Affect how we live.

2. As I said earlier, Jesus had resurrection power at work in Him while on this earth. Yet death took him out. By faith we have the same power at work in us though death is certain. As Christians we are to let Jesus be Lord over every areas of our lives. IL Read Col. 1:5-ff.
  3. "This new resurrection power in us includes power to gain more and more victories over sin remaining in our lives! *"So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."* (2 Corinthians 3:18, NLT)
  4. *"sin will have no dominion over you"* (Rom. 6:14; cf. 1 Cor. 15:17)—even though we will never be perfect in this life.
  5. In light of the resurrection John writes. *"Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure."* (1 John 3:2-3, NLT)
  6. *"But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own."* (1 John 3:2-3, The Message)
- E. Fourth, the resurrection gives me hope and it gives me courage.

### Conclusion:

- The Bible has so much to say about the resurrection. But so often we read it and pass right over without giving thought to it.
- The resurrection has huge theological implications for us our salvation being the biggest.
- But the resurrection when believed affects how we live.
  - Our Enthusiastically! With passion for the message! He is alive and you can be too.
  - Our Focus. If I believe in the resurrection then I live with the rewards of eternity in mind. Martyrs get front row seats in heaven, your garments there will reflect your choices here, and besides all that we want to win for the Lamb that was slain the rewards of His sufferings.
  - Our Choices. Knowing that He will return or that we will be raised keeps us working on our character. I want to be like Him.

My dad used to tell a story about a husband and wife married for many years driving down the road behind a young couple in the car ahead of them. The young couple had a car with front bench seats (this was back in the olden days) and the girl was sitting right next to the young man who was driving and had her head on his shoulder.

The woman in the car behind sighed and said to her husband, "Do you remember how we used to be like that? Her husband who was driving looked across the front seat and said, "I didn't move!" APPLICATION God has not moved. But maybe you should move a little closer to Him today.