

Christ's Resurrection in Romans

Inks: no truth ^{in the Bible.} concerning our Lord Jesus Christ is unimportant.

In fact, all of the Scriptures are focused upon Him, and all of the teaching of the Bible is important because of its relationship to Him. This is what the Lord was seeking to point out to his disciples from the OT (see Luke 24:27, 44).

However, the basic truths concerning the earthly life of Christ are three:

- (1) His birth, that it was by the virgin Mary. This is FOUNDATIONAL.
- (2) His death, real, final, complete - proven by His burial. This is CENTRAL.
- (3) His resurrection - physical and absolutely genuine. This is CLIMACTIC.

If any one of these is in error, then the Bible is robbed of its message of universal and eternal importance, and God's salvation for men is only a dream.

All three truths are firmly established in the Scriptures, but I would like to consider this third one with you this morning. Because it literally runs through the entire Bible, we will have to limit ourselves, and so I have chosen the book of Romans as a base of operation. Here we have the most complete statement of salvation to be found anywhere in

the Bible, and it is interesting to note that Paul refers to the resurrection of Christ in ~~eight~~ ^{seven} of the sixteen chapters (1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15). The actual verses are: 1:4; 4:¹⁴ 15; 6: 4, 5, 9; 7: 4; 8: 11, 34; 10: 9; 14: 9. (Rom. 15: 12 is questionable. While it without doubt has to do with His reign on the earth, and this would demand resurrection, yet the rising in 15: 12 would seem to be His rising to ascend the throne.)

In all of these references, it is amazing to note the sequence as one goes from the first to the last. Here we see beyond any doubt how indispensable this doctrine is.

I. The importance of the resurrection of Christ in connection with HIS PERSON.

Who did He claim to be? The Son of God.

Read Rom. 1: 1-5, esp. v. 4.

His birth indicated this.

His life increased the evidence - no sin.

His miracles were signs, evidence of it.

The manner of His dying supported it.

His resurrection openly manifested it. All doubt vanishes. The secret is out. Note the evidence in 1 Cor. 15, and Thomas', "My Lord and my God" (Jn. 20: 28).

No wonder the enemies of the Gospel seek to discredit this truth.

II. The importance of the resurrection of Christ in relation to HIS WORK:

What had John the Baptist claimed for the Lord Jesus? Read Jn. 1:29. Think of the times He claimed to be able to forgive sins: E.g., Mt. 9:2, 5, 6; Luke 7:47-49. What did the angel of the Lord say? Cf. Mt. 1:21. Were these true claims?

Paul in Romans says, "Yes", and he gives three reasons why.

A. The resurrection is proof of justification (Rom. 4:24, 25).

He was raised because everything necessary for the justification of every sinner from all sins had been done - and accepted!

Cf. Jn. 16:8, 10 - "of righteousness..." Our sin was "laid on Him". He was raised as evidence that He had put it away. It was gone!

B. The resurrection assures our sanctification, thinking of it in the practical, progressive sense (Rom. 6:3-10).

What about sin's power over me as a Christian? A dead Christ cannot help me, but a living Christ can and does?

"newness of life" (v. 4).

"That henceforth we should not serve sin" (v. 6). Cf. Gal. 2:20.

See also Rom. 8:34.

c. The resurrection guarantees my eventual glorification.

Will I always have trouble with sin? Will heaven be different? Will I ever get to heaven?

Read Rom. 8:11-25.

Paul may begin ^(v.11) by showing how the resurrected Savior's power now, quickening, but vv. 17, 18, 21, 23 make it perfectly clear that he is talking about glory.

Without the resurrection death would be the end. But how thankful we can be for this passage and 1 Cor. 15:20, 23.

So, the ~~work~~ ^{resurrection} of Christ takes care of the past, the present, and the future with regard to sin.

Concl: Is this all that I need to know?

No, it isn't!

Before I close I must mention two other passages.

Christ has died, and has been raised from the dead, and is now seated at the Father's right hand.

The work of salvation is finished. But it could mean nothing to you if you have not heeded two very important verses: Rom. 10:9, 10.

Confession and believing. One is

outward; the other is inward.
The outward must be the expression
of the inward. Believing leads to
confessing. But believing is not
working; it is putting your faith
in the work of another - Jesus Christ.

When you receive Him as your
Saviour, all the merit of His death
and resurrection, ^{immediately} become yours -
as a gift from God.

Have you believed? If not, will
you - now?

But a word to believers before I
close. Paul has a word for us too.
Read Rom. 14:8,9.

"That He might be Lord both of the
dead and the living."

Is He really your Lord? If so,
you are His bond servant. And
you will not only experience the
benefits of the resurrection, but
the joys as well.

The resurrected Christ wants
believers who will claim Him as
Lord!