

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Luke 24:1-12

Intro: The past two Sundays have been days of special blessing. It is always a blessing to have the Tim Huggins family with us, and especially when Tim is able to minister the Word to us. I was sorry that I did not know ahead of time that Tuesday night would be the last night that Tim and Machiko, and Sam and Stephanie, would be able to be with us. We would have had prayer during the evening conference session for them as they were returning to Japan on Thursday. But we just want to be faithful in remembering them and their ministry in Kinkai, Japan. The Lord seems to be blessing there in special ways, even to having members of the U. S. Navy driving over an hour on Sunday morning to attend the morning service at Grace Bible Chapel. Let us pray that the Lord's blessing will be multiplied upon them in the days ahead.

Then last Sunday we began our Spring Bible Conference with Professor Paul Felix, accompanied by his wife, Marlean. Joy Hayes asked me how to use his titles since he ministers at two schools. I told her that I thought we should speak of him as Professor in connection with his teaching at The Master's Seminary and President of the Los Angeles Bible Training School. Those of us who heard him throughout the conference will never forget Psalm 119. I hope that many of us will follow his suggestion that we take one verse from that great Psalm each day to meditate on it, and to pray that the Lord will enable us to live by it. Yesterday in our men's prayer meeting, I read a statement made by Philip Henry, the father of Matthew Henry, to his children. He recommended that they take one verse of Psalm 119 every morning, that they meditate on it, and so go over the Psalm twice in a year. He predicted that if they would do that, it would make them be in love with all of the rest of Scripture. Professor Felix made a similar prediction if we would do the same.

Our own Pastor Will filled out the last two Sundays with another of his helpful messages on 2 Corinthians. And he will continue that series with another message tonight.

But for this morning, before we observe the Lord's Supper together, let's think about the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The passage I have chosen as our starting point is Luke account of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. I think that it is important for us to get the facts well in mind before we talk about some of the messages found in this great

historical fact in the life of our Lord while He was here on earth.

I. THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (Luke 24:1-12).

This account is found also in the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Mark, and the Gospel of John. So we have four witnesses to this amazing event in the life of our Lord. And if you read any one of the four passages which tell us of the resurrection of Christ, you would come to the conclusion that they all were speaking of the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ Who had died on a Cross. All four believed that the Lord Jesus Christ had been raised back to life after He had died a very, very cruel death by crucifixion. There was no question in their minds but that Jesus Christ had really died, and that He was raised back to life in the same body in which He had died.

Now, although none of us have ever seen a person raised from the dead, and I am sure that most of you who are here today agree with me when I say that I also believe that Jesus Christ was literally raised from the dead three days after He had died.

I believe it, first of all, because it is recorded in the Bible. And I believe what is recorded in the Bible because I believe that the Bible is the Word of God. You and I who know the Lord do not read the Bible to find out if it is true. We know that it is true, that it is a revelation from God, and that the people who wrote the Bible were so directed by the Holy Spirit in what they wrote, that they were preserved from writing anything that was not true.

I believe in a literal, bodily resurrection because of Who Jesus Christ is. The Apostle Paul said right at the beginning of his letter to the church at Rome, that Jesus Christ was “declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom. 1:4). And the Apostle Peter, speaking to that crowd of Jews who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost after the resurrection and ascension of Christ, quoted King David who wrote in Psalm 16 about the resurrection of the Messiah, and said that it was not possible that Jesus Christ would be held by death, and not be raised from the dead. Why was it not possible? For two reasons: first, because He was the Son of God. He was Deity. And secondly, because the Scriptures had predicted that He would be raised from the dead.

So you can see that some great issues were involved in the resurrection of Christ. He became a Man so that He could die for the sinners God sent Him to save, but He could not remain dead because He was the Son of God.

Add to all of this evidence what the angels said to the women who had come early to the tomb on the first day of the week to anoint the dead body of the Lord. Read what happened in verses 3 through 9 of Luke 24.

We see that the angels believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And they reminded the women about what the Lord Himself had predicted. And our Lord had not said this just once, but He had said it several times, probably more than is even mentioned in Scripture. If the Lord had made a false prediction about His resurrection, how could we believe anything that He had said and taught during those brief years of His ministry. So the integrity of the Lord demanded that He be raised from the dead.

When the Apostle Paul wrote his first epistle to the church at Corinth, he answered those who were saying that there is no resurrection from the dead. And he pointed out to them that if there were no resurrection from the dead, then Christ could not have been raised from the dead. And he went on to speak of how devastating it would be to everything that Christians believe if Christ had not been raised from the dead. Listen to what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:17-19:

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

What Paul was saying was that if Christ was not raised from the dead, then we have no Gospel. There is no hope for anyone as far as the future is concerned. It would mean that there is nothing to our faith. Look at how Paul began 1 Corinthians 15. I want to read the first eight verses of this great chapter:

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received,

how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day
according to the scriptures:

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once;
of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are
fallen asleep.

7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due
time (1 Cor. 15:1-8).

You can see why some people say that there is no facts of history that has any greater verification than the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But now I want to spend the rest of my message this morning speaking of what we learn from the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a subject of such great importance in Scripture that it is impossible to do justice to it in one message. In fact, it is probably true that none of us will ever learn all that it is possible to know about the far-reaching importance of the resurrection of Christ. I don't in any way claim to be exhaustive on this subject this morning. I just want to point out some of the important aspects of this truth for us to bring to the Lord's table this morning, and then to carry away in our hearts for our continued blessing. Let me call this part of my message,

II. SOME BLESSINGS CHRIST SECURED BY HIS RESURRECTION.

Please turn with me to the last few verses of Romans 4. Paul was speaking about the faith of Abraham, and how he was justified by faith. But then he went on to say beginning with verse 23,

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification (Rom. 4:23-25).

The Scriptures teach that the Lord Jesus Christ raised Himself from the dead. They also teach that the Holy Spirit raised our Lord from the dead. Here in Romans 4:24 we are told that God raised Him from the dead.

Why did Christ die? He died for our offences. He died for our transgressions against a holy God. And He was raised, not to complete His work for our salvation, *but because He had completed it. The resurrection of Christ was evidence that God was completely satisfied with the sacrifice of Christ in atoning for our sins. Nothing more needed to be done!*

When you talk to people about salvation, you learn that there are many ideas that people have about salvation. Perhaps the most common idea is that we can make ourselves right with God by what we do, and then we can go down the line of those who think we do it all to others who feel that we have something to add to what Christ has done, such as being baptized, or joining a church, or consistently doing some good work for God so that He will reward us for what we have done by saving us. *But the resurrection of Christ tells us that Christ by His death has done absolutely all that God requires for our complete justification, God's complete justification of us because of Christ's death. No other work is needed; no other work is acceptable. We are justified by grace through faith in Christ's work, and God was declaring that when He raised Christ from the dead.*

*I need no other argument; I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.*

When we understand this truth, then we will refrain from talking about what we have done for God (which amounts to nothing in our salvation), and we will rejoice in what He has done for us.

But what does the resurrection of Christ have to do with the permanence of our salvation. How secure are we in our salvation? We soon learn after we are saved that it is still possible for us to sin. Can our sin cause God to finally reject us?

The Apostle Paul made a very important statement about the resurrection of Christ in Romans 6:9 and 10. Listen to what those verses tell us:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more;
death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth,
he liveth unto God.

Others were raised from the dead before the Lord Jesus was raised. But the unique thing about His resurrection is that death can never touch Him again. He can never die again. And this should bring us to Hebrews 7:25

where the writer of Hebrews was contrasting priests under the law with the priesthood of our Lord Jesus Christ. They could not continue and were followed by those who succeeded them, but our Lord is a Priest forever because He will not, He cannot die again. And this is what Hebrews 7:25 tells us:

5 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantees that once we are saved we can never lose our salvation.

Let me mention just one other truth about the resurrection of Christ. It is taught in 1 Corinthians 15, beginning with verse 20. After the part of this chapter that we have already considered where Paul was showing what we would not have if Christ had not been raised from the dead, the he added these comforting words:

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming (1 Cor. 15:20-23).

Do you know what "firstfruits" means? In the OT harvest time it meant that the first of the harvest that was brought to the Lord meant that more was coming just like it. So the resurrection of Christ guarantees that there will be others raised from the dead who will never die again, and some who are living will never die at all! This is what the Apostle Peter had in mind when he wrote 1 Peter 1:3-5:

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Paul made that hope even clearer when he wrote in Philippians 3:20-21:

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like

unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

And the Apostle John spoke of our hope in these words:

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure (1 John 3:2-3).

Concl: People don't really know what we are observing when we have a day set aside which supposedly is to remember the resurrection of Christ. Actually every Sunday we remember the resurrection of Christ. This is why we meet on Sunday and not on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. We are going to observe the Lord's Supper in a few moments where we remember our Lord's death for us. It cost Him His life to secure our salvation. But thank God He is not in the tomb. He lives. He was raised triumphantly over death, having finished the work that the Father sent Him to do. And in His resurrection we rejoice in all that He has accomplished for us as we await that day when we will share His glory, having been transformed into His very likeness by the power of our risen Savior.