Christ is Risen from the Dead

Five Main Points of Lesson

• The Promise of Resurrection
• The Witness and Scandal of Resurrection in Acts
• The Necessity of Resurrection
• The Hope of Resurrection
• A Comment about Lazarus, but not Really
“Now, with respect to the resurrection of the body...I have not found a way to discuss it briefly and still give satisfactory answers to all the questions usually raised about it.”
- Augustine
The Promise of Resurrection

• According to the Scriptures
• Of Believers (and all men)
  • Abraham – Promise of Land (Gen. 13:14-17, Heb. 11:8,9,13)
  • Joseph's bones (Gen. 50:24,25)
  • Daughters of Zelophehad (Num. 36:1-9)
  • Daniel – A promise for the end (Dan. 12:2,13)
  • Martha knew about resurrection (Jn. 11:24)
• The Sadducees' Challenge (Mt. 22:23-33)
  • “...not understanding the scriptures...” v.29
The Promise of Resurrection

• Of Christ
  • David's Prophecy (Ps. 16:11; Acts 2:23-31)
    • Acts 2:30,31 “being...knowing...foreseeing, he spoke...”
    • David saw corruption (Acts 13:36)
  • The Begotten Son (Ps. 2:7; Acts 13:33)
    • Davidic promises for a king to come
    • “firstborn from the dead” (Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5)
The Promise of Resurrection

• Of Christ
  • The Faithful Mercies of David (Isa. 55:3; Acts 13:34)
    • The everlasting covenant comes through the Davidic King, Christ who died ---> And rose again
The Witness and Scandal of Resurrection in the Book of Acts

- The Witness of Resurrection (at least 15 passages in Acts)
  - Acts 1:21,22 – The importance of chosen witnesses
- The Scandal (stumbling block) of Resurrection
  - Acts 17:31,32 – Areopagus speech cut off because of resurrection.
  - Acts 23:6-8 – Paul's trial is about resurrection (Acts 24 & 26)
The Necessity of Resurrection

• **Not – Proposition 1:** Christ was dead. **Proposition 2:** The dead, among whom Christ was one, are not raised. **Conclusion:** Christ is not raised.

• **Rather – Proposition 1:** If Christ is raised, the dead will be raised. **Proposition 2:** The dead are not raised. **Conclusion:** Christ is not raised.

• It hinges on Christ (v.15,16)

• Christ alone; no other hope (v.17,18)
The Necessity of Resurrection

• Grounds for hope -
  • Christ the first fruits
  • “As in Adam...so also in Christ” means he rose as a representative for all men in regards to resurrection
  • Death the last enemy must be destroyed (Rev. 20:13,14)
  • The resurrection of Christ brings about God being all in all
The Hope of Resurrection

• Our Current Condition -
  • All creation groans (Rom. 8:22,23)
  • Not peacetime (Rom. 7:23; 1 Pet. 2:11)
  • Wretched (Rom. 7:24)
  • The scum of the world (1 Cor. 4:13)
  • The world on June 6th, 1724
The Hope of Resurrection

• Our Future Condition -
  • Mortality swallowed up by life (2 Cor. 5:4,6)
  • Death swallowed up by victory (1 Cor. 15:54)
  • Thanks be to God who delivers from a body of death (Rom. 7:25)
  • No more enemies within
  • Daniel 12:2,3 “...in the kingdom of their Father.” (Mt. 13:43)
The Convert
by G.K. Chesterton

After one moment when I bowed my head
And the whole world turned over and came upright,
And I came out where the old road shone white,
I walked the ways and heard what all men said,
Forests of tongues, like autumn leaves unshed,
Being not unlovable but strange and light;
Old riddles and new creeds, not in despite
But softly, as men smile about the dead.
The Convert
by G.K. Chesterton

The sages have a hundred maps to give
That trace their crawling cosmos like a tree,
They rattle reason out through many a sieve
That stores the sand and lets the gold go free:
And all these things are less than dust to me
Because my name is Lazarus and I live.