

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 – Propostion 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.