

The Mystery of Resurrection

Introduction

How much we understand about the resurrected Christ is key to living a success Christian life in the here and now.

The end purpose of our salvation is not so we can escape here and go to heaven.

Jesus resurrection is not about God snatching people away from the earth, but colonizing earth with the life of heaven. NT Wright

Is that not what we mean when we pray the Lord's prayer ...

Matthew 6:10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

I want to talk about- power of resurrection life-

>not just as an event from the past

>or a hope that we hold onto for the future

... but experiencing the power of resurrection life in- present/NOW!

Christ's Death, Resurrection, and Incarnation

After Jesus- crucified/buried- women went to the tomb/found the stone rolled away/tomb empty.

Rom 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

Jesus defeated death through-death/resurrection.

The Christian expectation of resurrection is based solely on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Many testimonies in the Bible- Jesus resurrection.

In **1 Cor 15.6**- Jesus appeared to 500 people

There is more historical evidence to support the resurrection of Jesus Christ than there is that Julius Caesar ever existed.

There is no hope for believers in a dead Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:16-17

¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

¹⁷and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

Christ is either alive today or Christianity is a lie.

Christ death ...

... is a picture of Jesus love for us/willingness to die for us that we might be saved- eternal life.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Christ resurrection ...

... is a demonstration of God's power and ability to give us the hope of eternal life.

1 Cor 6:14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

Jesus' resurrection guarantees our future resurrection as believers.

Christ incarnation ...

... after His resurrection, Jesus again takes on the form of a man

>giving us the assurance that we will also will have a physical resurrection

Jesus speaking to-disciples after His resurrection-

Luke 24:39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a

spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

Jesus human form did not disappear when He ascended to heaven after His resurrection.

For all eternity, Jesus, a man, in His physical body, will sit at the right hand of the Father.

Aside: Jesus' body may be in heaven- but- He is again incarnate on the earth because He lives in us, the Church, the Body of Christ.

And we have the privilege of ...

>carrying His presence

>walking in His power and

>continuing- work He started here on earth

Death

The Bible takes death seriously- not an illusion.

It is- consequence of sin- spiritually/physically ...

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Adam all humanity- been affected by sin/death.

Sin and death are an enemy of God and man.

Hebrews 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Death was defeated at the open tomb.

For a believer death is no longer is to be feared.

The Unbeliever

Bible is clear- righteous & unrighteous, believing & the unbelieving will experience resurrection.

John 5:28–29

28“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

The hope of resurrection should be a ...

- >great encouragement to a believer and
- >motivator to live a righteous life

That same hope of a future resurrection should ...

- >produce fear in the heart of the unbeliever
- >to die w/o Christ is- face eternal judgment

The Power of Resurrected Life NOW

Again, my goal is to communicate the power of resurrection life, NOW in the present.

Gal 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Paul- talking about our NOW present walk w/God.

2Cor 5:17 talks about how we are a new creation

The present reality is- our old man is dead and a new man has been raised up in his place

Rom 6- water baptism- old man goes down in the watery grave/new man comes up out of- water.

Romans 6:5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

We possess resurrection life NOW in the present.

The NOW Benefits of Christ Resurrection

Some of- NOW benefits of Christ resurrection.

1. We are dead to sin

There was a time when we could not not sin!

Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

Man, minus the resurrection power of God, has no hope of living in spiritual victory ... but ...

Romans 6:6-7

⁶knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷for he who has died is freed from sin.

Christ's death and resurrection is a declaration that sin and death were defeated at the cross.

The resurrection power of Jesus Christ enables us to live in victory over- power of sinful flesh.

I am dead to sin and have the victorious life of God living in of me.

2. We no longer walk in darkness

Eph 5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

We walk in light because we NOW have fellowship with the God of light.

In contrast, the world walks in spiritual darkness.

Divine light opens up for us all facets of revelation, wisdom, and knowledge.

Not just spiritually, but in every area of life- work life, school life, family life.

3. We have access to Truth

Jn 16:13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

The HS will ...

- >reveal to us the heart/mind of the Father
- >give us insight/understanding that goes far beyond any natural knowledge

The HS will reveal to us truth in every area of life.

Not just spiritual truth, but all truth- physics, chemistry, engineering, gender, sexuality, etc.

Jesus is the source of truth- I am- way, truth, life.

Jam 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

We can ask- Father of lights to enlighten any area where we need an understanding of truth.

4. We have been called to peace

We live in a world filled with chaos and fear.

Jn 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

We have been reconciled to God- we have ...

- >peace with God- no longer at odds w/God
- >the peace of God

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will

**guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus.**

No matter what we face in life- through our faith-
we can choose peace over fear/anxiety.

5. We possess the power of a new life

**John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was
the Light of men.**

Through Christ we receive- power of a new life.

**Jn 11:25 ... "I am the resurrection and
the life; he who believes in Me will live
even if he dies,**

In other words we have life NOW while we are
alive and even if we die we will have life.

Do not hinder/doubt the resurrection life that is in
you and God wants to release through you.

6. We have a New Identity

Through Jesus resurrection we are now ...

- >children of God
- >friends of God
- >servants of the Lord
- >sent ones
- >reconcilers- ministry of reconciliation
- >disciples of the Lord
- >a new creation in Christ
- >heirs of God and joint heirs w/Christ

**Our old history ends with the cross
but our new history begins with the
resurrection. Watchman Nee**

Do not let the world define you as something
other than who you are in Christ Jesus.

7. Born into a Living Hope

**1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who**

according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Our hope is alive because it is founded in the living resurrected Christ.

Our hope is built on an imperishable inheritance reserved for us in heaven.

The chaos/despair of the world cannot take away the hope we have in the resurrected Christ.

8. God's power is alive in us

John 14:16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

That Helper is the HS- through the indwelling HS we have access to the power of God NOW.

1 Cor 12:4-6

4... varieties of gifts ...

5... varieties of ministries ...

6... varieties of effects ...

God wants to express Himself through us in an infinite number of ways.

This power has been given to us so we can build up and bless others.

Do not squander what God has given you by believing a lie that you have nothing to offer.

9. We have the promise of divine healing

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

This verse is talking about our physical temple.

1 Pet 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Empty tomb assures us that sickness, disease, suffering, death do not have the final word.

Matthew 10:7–8

7“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

8“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

10. We have been given the spirit of prayer

Gal 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

Because we have been united with Christ in both His death/resurrection ...

... we have access to our heavenly Father.

We can cry out to God at anytime.

Heb 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Whether we are battling ...

- >sickness
- >bitterness
- >betrayal
- >pride
- >discouragement
- >lack of provision

... we can pray w/confidence because Jesus is seated at- right hand of God interceding for us.

My prayers are powerful and effective.

How to Activate Resurrection Life/Power

When Jesus arose from the dead, He ...

>completely devastated hell

>He defeated ...

-Satan

-the dark powers/principalities

-death itself

Col 2:15 (MSG) He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

The only power Satan has over us is the power we choose to give him.

Some suggestions to activate resurrection life-

1. Believe the message of the Kingdom of God

Do not be an unbelieving believer!

Be a person of faith- one who wholly trusts in God, His Word, and His promises.

2 Cor 1:20 (NLT) For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

The promises of God are true and trustworthy.

War against doubt/fear/unbelief- cast them aside and do not allow them to grow in your heart.

2. Speak Words of Faith over your life

God spoke- world into existence- words- powerful
We activate resurrection life through our words ...

Words are containers- they can contain faith/fear. And words have children and those children reproduce after their kind.

Words of faith beget faith- words of fear- fear.
Guard what comes out of your mouth- self-talk.
Declare the Word of God over your life ...

Psalm 103:2-5

²Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;

³Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;

⁴Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;

⁵Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

3. Act on God's Word

When Satan tries to bring the curse back into your life- he is trespassing.

You have the authority to make him leave.

Jam 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Use the name of Jesus and remind the devil that the blood of Christ was poured out over you.

Jesus paid too high a price for you to accept anything less than total/complete VICTORY.

Know the Word of God/promises of God and act on them with great confidence.

Conclusion

Resurrection of Jesus Christ changed everything-

>condemnation/guilt have been cancelled

>we have been delivered from- power of sin

>death has been swallowed up in victory

>we were transformed from ...

-bondage to freedom

-darkness to light

-sin to righteousness

-death to life

>we are seated in heavenly places w/Christ

>God's Holy Spirit lives inside of us

Learn to live your life in the reality of what the

Lord has already done for you in the NOW.

Phil 3.20 says ... **our citizenship is in heaven**

Learn to set your hearts/minds towards heaven.

Christ resurrection gives us-new context for living.

It is not about how-live for fifty/sixty/seventy years

It about living our lives with a view to eternity.

Learn to live/walk in- NOW power of resurrection

life that has been made available to you

through life/death/resurrection- Jesus Christ