

The Power of His Resurrection

Sunday April 16th, 2006

1). 1Co 15:12 ¶ *Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.*

2). We may become so used to the fact of Christ's resurrection as it is such an established and accepted part of our faith that we may that we may well find ourselves glossing over the enormous significance that it has.

a). Notice what is written in our scripture, that which the Holy Spirit would communicate to us concerning this.

b). If Christ is not risen –

i/ Our preaching is empty

ii/ Our faith is empty

iii/ Scripture is a false witness

iv/ Our faith is futile

v/ We are still in our sins

vi/ The dead in Christ have already perished

vii/ Only in this life we would have hope

viii/ We would be the most pitiable of all men

3). Let us call to mind once again the words of Christ with regards to the content of scripture, spoken on the road to Emaus - Lu 24:26 "*Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?*"

a). The suffering of death we can clearly see in the crucifixion, but it would need a resurrected Christ to enter into His glory.

b). Glory is always associated with rulership.

i/ Adam and Eve

ii/ The Glory in the Tabernacle and Temple in relation to the Theocracy

iii/ The transfiguration of Christ

iv/ And in conclusion we see this at the coming of His Kingdom - Mt 24:30 *"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

c). In effect then, without the resurrection there would be no coming Kingdom. There would be no power, there would be no glory.

4). If Christ were not raised from the dead, He would not be the Christ as the clear testimony of scripture is that the Son of God would die and be raised from the dead on the third day.

a). It is that which is prefigured in the types of Isaac and Joseph

b). Mt 16:21 ¶ *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

c). Mt 17:22 ¶ *Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 "and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up."*

d). This was something prophesied by David in Psalm 16 and referenced by Peter on the Day of Pentecost in explanation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that day - Ac 2:25 *"For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'* 29 *"Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.*

e). His resurrection then is proof positive of His deity, that which is inseparably tied to the covenanted promise given to David concerning the One who would come from his lineage, who would be the Son of God.

Ro 1:1 ¶ *Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

f). Without His resurrection there would have been no outpouring of the Holy Spirit and therefore no search for the Bride after the type of Genesis 24.

5). Not only does His resurrection give us proof positive that He is the Son of God, it must also be the foundation for our hope.

a). In His resurrection is God's acceptance of His sacrifice for our sin. This is the guarantee that the price was paid for our redemption, and that all who would believe on this would receive the free gift of eternal life.

b). Ro 5:18 *Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.*

6). And as we know this is not the culmination of what His resurrection has made possible, but is the doorway that leads to the fulfillment of God's purpose for Man – 'Let them have dominion'

a). 1Pe 1:3 ¶ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

(Teach this)

i/ We are begotten again to a living hope

ii/ This living hope comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

iii/ And this hope is the inheritance.

b). Ga 3:29 *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

7). In Christ's resurrection from the dead is the promise of our own resurrection. And this is not just resurrection to eternal life, but, resurrection to a specific end. Let's read what scripture says of it.

a). 1Co 15:20 ¶ *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

b). Re 1:5 *and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.*

(Teach these)

c). In this we see that recorded in - Ro 6:5 *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,*

d). This is the better resurrection spoken of in Hebrews - Heb 11:35 *Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.*

e). That which Paul looked for - Php 3:11 *if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

f). And that commended in - Re 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

8). The resurrection of Christ is essential if He is to enter the Heavenly Tabernacle as High Priest and place His blood on the Mercy Seat for the confessed sins of those who would be the heirs of salvation.

a). Heb 8:1 ¶ *Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.*

b). 1Jo 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

c). Without His resurrection this ministry would not exist, and we would, as our opening scripture said still be in our sins. And if still in our sins we would be perpetually separated from the reason for our creation.

d). There would be no firstborn sons, no coheirs, no bride and God's Kingdom would never be free of sin and death.

9). However, Christ is raised from the dead as the first fruits of a greater harvest – Heb 2:10 ¶ *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

a). Sonship and glory speak unequivocally of rulership.

10). In His resurrection then we see the acceptance of the sacrifice that effects the salvation of our spirit.

a). In His resurrection we see the fulfillment of God's purpose for Man, necessitating the salvation of our souls – it is the hope that is the anchor for our souls. - Heb 2:8 *You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

b). And in His resurrection we see the salvation of our body
Ro 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

c). In His resurrection we see with certainty those who will be His coheirs, ushering in a new order of rulers to replace Satan and his fallen angels. The certainty of a seventh day, the Messianic Era, the Millennial Kingdom - Heb 2:5 ¶ *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.*

d). Col 2:15 *Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

e). 1Pe 3:19 *by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.*

f). This change of rulership does not just effect men and angels, but the whole of the material creation - Ro 8:19 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

11). To conclude let us return to our opening scripture and pick up where we left off - 1Co 15:20 ¶ *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

12). That pin prick moment in time, when by the power of the Spirit, our Lord broke the chains of death and burst forth in triumph from the grave set the clock ticking as it were on a time bomb of righteousness and justice that is about to explode, literally changing forever, God's universal creation.

13). Our Lord is risen – He is risen indeed!