

**RESURRECTION 2023**  
**LUKE 24:1-12**  
**WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Luke chapter 24 as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let's begin reading verse 1 of Luke chapter 24. Keep in mind that Jesus has been crucified, He has been in the tomb for three days now, and we are told . . .

**READ LUKE 24:1-12**

As we read about the resurrection of Jesus Christ there are many theories out there to try to refute it.

There is the one where the women went to the wrong tomb. But if we read the Scriptures, they saw where Jesus were buried and they did not go to the wrong tomb. I may have gotten lost, but they surely didn't.

There is the swoon theory where Jesus just passed out and in the cool of the tomb He woke up. Let me be clear on this. The Romans were very good and knowing when a person was dead and Jesus was dead. There is no way He could have survived all that He went through. Not only that but they buried Him with 100 pounds of burial spices and linen. And then to roll away a one ton stone and get by the Roman soldiers who were guarding the tomb. You have to have more faith to believe that nonsense!

Then there is the mass hallucination theory where every hallucinated that they saw Jesus. Obviously you have to have a lot of faith to believe that everyone who saw the resurrected Jesus all had the same hallucination!

Another one is that they stole the body of Jesus and just pretended that He rose from the grave. First of all they would have had to get around the Roman soldiers, who, if they even fell asleep on the job, they could be put to death, let alone allow someone to steal the body of Jesus.

And think about that one. If the disciples knew that they stole the body of Jesus, why would they put their lives on the line for a lie. All of the disciples except for John, who died of old age, were martyred for a lie? I don't think so!

This one takes a lot of imagination. That someone else was crucified that looked like Jesus, but it wasn't Him. So He did not rise from the dead because Jesus never died! Foolishness.

Don't you think one of His men would have known this? Of course they would have and they would not die for that lie! And how could Mary not recognize her own son? Or how could John be confused by whom he saw on the cross?

I will just share one more with you because it is out of this world, literally! This theory says that Jesus was an alien who had advanced abilities and technology that he used to amaze and convince the crowds he was God. After he was placed in the tomb, he beamed himself out and appeared to the disciples afterwards.

Okay, you want me to believe that Jesus was an alien and to reject what the Bible teaches, that God became flesh and dwelt among us to go to the cross of Calvary and die for our sins and be raised the third day? Are you out of your mind? I guess you are if you believe that!

Because of all this and how people today think that the resurrection of Jesus never happened, it is foolishness to them and they mock it, or even some Christians don't see this as a big deal. That is why I have called our study – ***WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?***

Let me be clear on this – ***THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS A BIG DEAL!***

Why do I believe it is such a big deal?

Because it is part of the Gospel message! I know, you probably don't hear that too often, but listen carefully to what Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15:3-4. He wrote, "**For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.**"

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, "**For I passed on to you first of all what I also had received, that Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for our sins in accordance with [what] the Scriptures [foretold], [Isa 53:5-12.] That He was buried, that He arose on the third day as the Scriptures foretold, [Ps 16:9,10.]**"

You see, it is not just the death of Jesus Christ, but it is the death of Jesus Christ and that three days later He rose from the grave! That is the Gospel message and Paul makes that very clear!

It is like this, and it does sum this up for us, that we serve the living God and not a dead one! We are told,

In one of the villages of Northern India a missionary was preaching in a bazaar.

As he closed, a Muslim gentleman came up and said, "***You must admit we have one thing you have not, and it is better than anything you have.***"

The missionary smiled and said, "***I should be pleased to hear what it is.***"

The Muslim said, "***You know when we go to Mecca we at least find a coffin. But when you Christians go to Jerusalem, which is your Mecca, you find nothing but an empty grave.***"

But the missionary just smiled and said, *“That is just the difference. Mohammed is dead; Mohammed is in the coffin. And false systems of religion and philosophy are in their coffins, but Jesus Christ, whose kingdom is to include all nations and kindreds and tribes, is not here; He is risen. And all power in heaven and on earth is given unto Him. That is our hope.”*

A living Christ! That is our hope. He is not dead, but alive forevermore.

- A Treasury of Bible

So with the remainder of our time this morning, this Resurrection morning, we are going to be looking at this – ***WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL!***

And I think it is important for us to understand that Jesus did rise from the dead on that third day, that Sunday morning, and why it is such a big deal to us, why this is so important for us to believe and understand.

So – ***WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .***

### **1. BECAUSE BELIEVERS ARE JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD!**

Now how many of you really think about resurrection and justification going together?

Probably not too many of you, if any of you.

But listen carefully to what Paul wrote in Romans 4:25 in speaking of Jesus, **“who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”**

Anders Nygren put it this way, *“When we believe in Jesus as ‘put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification,’ we believe in the God ‘who gives life to the dead.’”*

Now we need to deal with this word. What is Justification?

The simplest way to put it is like this. Justification is “*just if id*” *never sinned!* That is what God has done, not what we have done.

But I thought that it was His shed blood that cleansed me of my sin?

That is absolutely right!

Then what does Paul mean here when he says that He “**. . . was raised for our justification.**”?

First of all, before I answer that question, we have to deal with this problem of sin and then of our justification.

Does God just ignore our sin?

Not at all, that would make Him unrighteous.

What has happened is that Jesus paid in full the penalty for our sins, all of them, and thus, there is no record of our sins any longer. Our sins have been cast as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more!

Let me illustrate it like this.

Warren Wiersbe wrote the following story about the Rolls Royce, and it relates to what we are talking about here regarding justification, what this means.

He wrote,

My friend Dr. Roy Gustafson has the finest illustration of justification I have ever heard. It seems that there was a man in England who put his Rolls-Royce on a boat and went across to the continent to go on a holiday.

While he was driving around Europe, something happened to the motor of his car.

He cabled the Rolls-Royce people back in England and asked, “*I’m having trouble with my car; what do you suggest I do?*”

Well, the Rolls-Royce people flew a mechanic over! The mechanic repaired the car and flew back to England and left the man to continue his holiday.

As you can imagine, the fellow was wondering, ***“How much is this going to cost me?”***

So when he got back to England, he wrote the people a letter and asked how much he owed them.

He received a letter from the office that read: ***“Dear Sir: There is no record anywhere in our files that anything ever went wrong with a Rolls-Royce.”***

That is justification!

- W. Wiersbe, Key Words of the Christian Life, p. 16

Exactly! And we need to understand the sinful state we are in. Sin has separated us from God and Jesus shed His blood to atone for our sins.

That means the only way we can be justified is to be justified freely! We can't purchase it with our good works. Never could and never will be able to!

It is a grace gift! And grace speaks of getting what we don't deserve. God gives us life freely! And mercy speaks of not getting what we do deserve, death!

Then what about resurrection and justification, how do they fit together then?

Because Jesus was raised from the dead it showed that God's justice had been satisfied. He paid in full the penalty for our sins and released us from death!

So the resurrection of Jesus shows that we have been justified before God!

So – *WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .*

## 2. **BECAUSE JESUS DEFEATED DEATH!**

First of all, how did death come into this world that God created?

Through the sin of Adam and from that time forward the death rate has been 100%, except for Enoch and Elijah! Man can't escape death by anything he can do! There truly is no escape!

But listen to what we are told in Acts 2:24 by Peter, **“whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”**

Jesus rose from the dead because death could not hold Him, it had no grip on His life.

And yet, look at the fear people have today about dying. Why is there such a fear about dying?

Because for many, this is all there is to life. They have no hope for what lies ahead.

Freud, the father of psychology and the father of messing with people's heads, said this, *“And finally there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be.”*

Paul tells us that Freud is wrong, he is not all there because we have victory over death in Christ, the sting is gone!

You see, we don't have to fear death. Paul tells us this in I Corinthians 15:55-57, **“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Jesus has taken the sting of death for us and in doing so removed it so that we can live with Him for eternity! Let me show you what I mean with this illustration.

We are told,

*“A little girl was having a picnic with her daddy. Deathly allergic to bee stings, she became terrified as a bumblebee buzzed overhead. Seeing the bee, her father caught it and held it in his hand for a few seconds before letting it go. As it buzzed around once more, the little girl cried, ‘Daddy, Daddy, why did you let the bee go.’ Rather than explain it, the father chose to simply open his hand to show his daughter the stinger embedded in his palm.”*

The sting of death for this little girl was removed and the sting of death for each of us has been removed by Christ.

But we still will die, right?

Yes, we will, unless we are caught up in the Rapture before we die.

Then Paul was wrong, there is still the sting of death, right?

Wrong!

It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 15:54, **“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”**

In other words, when we go home to be with the Lord, when we get our new bodies, there is no more death, no more sickness!

You see, death for the Christian is not the end of life but just the beginning. We are no longer under the Law and its penalty of death – we have been freed in Christ!

Sin brought about death. And the Law showed us how bad we were, how bad we are!

That is not good, but remember what Paul said, “**But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**” I Corinthians 15:57.

So – *WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .*

### **3. BECAUSE IT CONFIRMS THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE!**

How many people, especially Jewish non-believers believe that Jesus and His death and resurrection are all New Testament ideas? They don't believe that the Old Testament spoke of Jesus at all, especially His death and resurrection!

That is not true, the Old Testament does speak of both His death and His resurrection as well as His life, of course!

In Psalm 16:10 we are told, “**For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**”

This is one of the clearest and best known of the resurrection prophecies of Jesus. This was penned by King David some 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus!

Now you may be wondering how I can be so sure that this is speaking of Jesus and that He will not remain in Sheol.

Some may think that I am stretching the truth to fit the picture I want to paint!

Not at all. Let me explain the reason I am so certain that these words in Psalm 16 are speaking of Jesus.

It is because of the sermon that Peter gave on the Day of Pentecost, and he said in Acts 2:25-32, **“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. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’ 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. 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, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”**

Peter is quoting out of Psalm 16:8-11 and relating these words of David to the Messiah, to Jesus.

Now just in case you thought this Psalm was about David, Peter explains why this Psalm is not speaking of David but of the Messiah, of Jesus.

You see, David died, he was buried and even to this day, on Mount Zion, they have the tomb which they believe is the tomb of David.

But Jesus was only in the tomb for three days before He was raised from the dead and thus, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit David wrote of an event, the death and resurrection of Jesus some 1,000 years before it transpired!

Remember that Jesus said to the Scribes and the Pharisees who wanted a sign from Jesus to prove that He is the Messiah, rejecting His whole life being a sign, that, “**. . . ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.’**” Matthew 12:39-40.

And now it has come to pass, and Peter is saying that many have seen the risen Lord, including himself.

In Job 19:25 we see Job speak of Resurrection life, “**For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth.**”

Keep in mind that this is a very early book and yet we see Job speaking of resurrection life, that even after he has died and his body has gone back to the dust of the earth, he will be raised up and in his body, resurrection body, and he will see God face-to-face.

And when Job speaks of his “**Redeemer**” he uses the Hebrew word *GOEL*.

Now of this GOEL Morgan tells us, “*The ‘Goel’ stood for another to defend his cause, to avenge wrongs done to him, and so to acquit him of all charges laid against him.*”

And Lawson wrote, “*A redeemer was a vindicator of one unjustly wronged. He was a defender of the oppressed. A champion of the suffering. An advocate of one unjustly accused. If you were ever wronged, a redeemer would come and stand beside you as your champion and advocate.*”

This of course is speaking of Jesus, the kinsmen redeemer who came to save man from his sin. Job is speaking of this redeemer, our *GOEL!* And please remember that Job believed in resurrection and not in reincarnation. It is important to know that we are not recycled, not reincarnated till we reach some spiritual level of godhood.

And the only reason we can have that hope of resurrection life is because Jesus was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures!

So – *WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .*

#### **4. BECAUSE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IS TRUE!**

What do I mean by that?

I mean that without the resurrection of Jesus Christ there is no hope. There is no forgiveness. There is no justification. There is no eternal life!

Paul explained that in I Corinthians 15:14-19 where he wrote, “**And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 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. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**”

Those are some pretty strong words by Paul in regards to the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

If Christ has not risen, then not only is our preaching in vain but so is your faith!

If Christ has not risen, then we are still dead in our sins!

If Christ has not risen, then those who have died in Christ have perished, there is nothing for them on the other side of the grave and thus, there is nothing for us on the other side of the grave as well!

If Christ has not risen, and that is where we have placed our faith, our hope, we are the most foolish people around!

Martin Luther put it like this, *“Everything depends on our retaining a firm hold on this doctrine in particular; for if this one totters and no longer counts, all the others will lose their value and validity.”*

And Spurgeon wrote, *“If Jesus rose, then this gospel is what it professes to be; if He rose not from the dead, then it is all deceit and delusion.”*

Do you see how important the resurrection of Christ is?

That is why Paul goes on to say in I Corinthians 15:20, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”**

***HE IS RISEN!***

So – ***WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .***

## **5. BECAUSE IT PROVES THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD!**

How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ prove that He is the Son of God, or to fully understand that, Jesus is Almighty God?

Listen to what Paul said in Romans 1:3-4, **“concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”**

John speaks of God becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us, the Incarnation. In John 1:14 we are told of this as John said, “**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**”

And that is what Paul is saying here in Romans chapter 1. Jesus was born of the seed of David, speaking of His humanity, God becoming flesh.

And then Paul says that Jesus is the Son of God, speaking of His deity, that Jesus is Almighty God!

And the Greek word for “**declared**” is *HORIZO* and we get our English word “*horizon*” from it. In other words, in response to Jesus being God, He has always been God and will always be God just as the horizon stretches forth across the sky!

And what is this all linked to?

It is linked to His resurrection or as Paul put it, “**by the resurrection from the dead.**” Romans 1:4.

The humanity, the deity of Jesus Christ in the Incarnation. His deity is seen in His resurrection and the proof that He is the Messiah through His life. And salvation is only through Him, there is no other way of salvation apart from Christ!

So – ***WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .***

## **6. BECAUSE IT MEANS THAT GOD THE FATHER WILL SEND US THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

Without the death and resurrection of the Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit could not be given to us.

Remember in our study of the Gospel of John, that is what Jesus told us in John 14:16-18, **“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”**

And in John 16:7 Jesus said, **“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”**

Keep in mind that in the earthly ministry of Jesus, He could only be in one place at a time, like you and me. Yes, He was Almighty God in the Incarnation, but He also was flesh and blood.

But when He departs and goes back to the Father, resurrection life, God the Father and Jesus will send the Holy Spirit to be with us drawing us to Christ and the Holy Spirit will come in us when we come to Christ. Thus, God can work through us, through people all over the world at the same time!

That is what Peter said in Acts 2:33, **“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.”**

And keep in mind that in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit never indwelt believers but He empowered them for service. The reason being is that there was no atonement for their sin, complete atonement until Christ came and paid that price and now the Holy Spirit can indwell us for service!

So – ***WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .***

## 7. **BECAUSE IT GIVES US A LIVING HOPE!**

Think about that for a minute. Before we came to know the Lord, we were enemies of God. But now that we have repented of our sins and asked Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives, we are children of God!

And listen to this hope that we now have that is based in the finished work of Jesus, His death and His resurrection.

Peter put it like this in I Peter 1:3-5, **“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, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

God has **“begotten”** us, or we are born again in Christ. That old man is now dead, and the spirit controls us. That flesh nature will be with us until we go to be with the Lord, but it does not have the power to control us unless we let it!

Now think about our earthly inheritance, is it safe, is it everlasting, will it not fade away?

Of course not, nothing of this world will last, it is always moving from order to disorder, from new to rotting and decaying, from yours to someone else’s. You can’t take it with you.

But look at our heavenly inheritance, it is **“incorruptible”** or it will not be destroyed, it will never be lost.

Our heavenly inheritance is **“undefiled”** or it is unstained or unpolluted.

And our heavenly inheritance will not **“fade away”** which speaks of a flower that does not wither and die.

The kingdom of this world, the things of this world, the things we tend to treasure and hold onto so tightly will all go away but what God has for us will not!

And Peter calls this our “**living hope**” and Charles Spurgeon expounds on that as he wrote, *“It is also called a ‘living hope,’ because it is imperishable. Other hopes fade like withering flowers. The hopes of the rich, the boasts of the proud, all these will die out as a candle when it flickers in the socket. The hope of the greatest monarch has been crushed before our eyes; he set up the standard of victory too soon, and has seen it trailed in the mire. There is no unwaning hope beneath the changeful moon: the only imperishable hope is that which climbs above the stars, and fixes itself upon the throne of God and the person of Jesus Christ.”*

Amen to that, and folks, if you think you can lose your salvation, think again because Peter tells us it is reserved in heaven for us.

If God has a place reserved for us, do you think He will lose it or give it away to someone else?

Of course not because our salvation is based upon His finished work, His faithfulness and all we must do to receive that gift is to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!

Notice that Peter does not say that our salvation is secure *“As long as we hold on real tight to Jesus. If we don’t, if we let go, if we lose our grip on Him before we die, we are going to lose our salvation!”*

If he did say that then there would not be much hope in this salvation because it would be based upon my finished work and not His finished work!

Maybe you are not convinced yet. Maybe you still think you can lose your salvation. But you can’t and I will show you that we are not saved by our strength, but by His!

Look at I Peter 1:5 once again and as you do I want you to notice that Peter says that we “**are kept**” or *PHROUREO*, (froo-reh’-o) in the Greek, and it was a military term used to refer to a garrison within the city. (The same Greek word is used in Philippians 4:7)

Here is the point. If God is on guard over our salvation, do you really think the enemy is going to be able to take it away?

Of course not.

Paul said in Philippians 1:6, “**being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**”

Do you see that? He will complete the work He has started in our lives because we are kept by the power of God through faith! What peace that should bring to each of us!

Meyer sums it up like this, “*To have been told, as in the preceding verse, that our inheritance was reserved in heaven could have yielded us little comfort, unless that assurance had been followed and capped by this, that the heirs also are being kept for its full enjoyment.*”

Our hope is in the Lord. He has saved us. He will sustain us. And one day He will take us to glory!

So – **WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .**

## **8. BECAUSE WE WILL BE RAISED LIKE HIM!**

Did you ever think about this? All the suffering we experience in life, all the pain we experience in this life, all the heartache we experience in this life, all the hurt we experience in this life, and I can go on, but all of those things have an expiration date on them!

What do I mean by that?

I mean that they will not continue forever. They will end!

But then what?

When these bodies go back to the dust of the earth we will be raised in glory to be with our Lord!

And guess what?

There is no expiration date on that! The pleasures, the joy, the peace in heaven will never end! Not only that, but we will receive a new body, a glorified body, a resurrection you might say! A body that will never fail, that will never end, that will never get old or sick – A

***RESURRECTION BODY OR GLORIFIED BODY!***

But how do we know that we will be raised as He was raised?

Because the Scriptures tell us.

Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:20-23, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”**

Now we need to understand this point that Paul makes regarding Firstfruits.

Firstfruits was a Jewish feast that took place on the day after the Sabbath following Passover.

At this feast, which took place in the spring, they would bring a sheaf of grain and wave it before the Lord and it represented a fruitful harvest that was to come as they gave to the Lord. (Leviticus 23:9-14).

Here is the interesting part regarding this feast. Jesus rose from the dead on the Feast of Firstfruits and thus, as Paul said in Romans 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.”**

Trapp put it like this, *“As in the Firstfruits offered to God, the Jews were assured of God’s blessing on the whole harvest; so by the resurrection of Christ, our resurrection is insured.”*

It is as Paul said in Romans 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.”**

What a glorious promise that God has given to us, that we will be raised in a new body one day!

Why can’t these bodies be raised up?

Paul explains that as he shows us that through Adam, we have all be born into that sin nature and with it came spiritual death, separation from God. And these bodies of flesh and blood can’t inherit the Kingdom of God because of sin and thus, we must be changed, we must get new bodies for our spirit and soul to dwell in!

Listen carefully to what Paul says here in I Corinthians.

He tells us that all who are *IN* Adam will die and all who are *IN* Christ will be made alive!

Thus, if you are not in Christ, if He is not your Lord and Savior, then you will not enter into that eternal life with Him, your spirit will remain dead because we have all been born into Adam and thus, we need to be born again!

Christ is the beginning, He was the Firstfruits and there is coming a bountiful resurrection from the dead. We will be raised like Him!

So – ***WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .***

### **9. BECAUSE JESUS WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

Here is the bottom line. Unbelievers, those who have rejected Jesus will be judged according to what they have done in this life according to God’s Law at the Great White Throne Judgment. They will stand before God in their own righteousness, which is like filthy rags! (Isaiah 64:6) And they will spend an eternity separated from God in the Lake of Fire!

For believers, we will go before the Bema Seat of Christ or the Judgement seat and we will receive rewards for the things we have done for the Lord. Also, we will spend eternity with the Lord, the One we love.

What about all our sins, why aren’t we judged for them like everyone else?

That is a great question. The answer is simple. All our sins, past, present and future sins have been paid for by Jesus and thus, we no longer stand in our own righteousness that are like filthy rags, but in the righteousness of Christ that has been imputed into our lives by faith. Big difference! (II Corinthians 5:21)

It is what Paul said in Acts 17:30-31, **“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”**

There is a judgment day, and it is not going to come from Artificial Intelligence or a Terminator machine, but from the Living God!

How can I be so sure?

Because Jesus rose from the grave and that tells me sin was paid for and if you reject that gift of life that is found in Jesus, judgment is coming, not might!

Right now the unsaved go to a temporary dwelling place, you can read of it in Luke chapter 16. And there, in this temporary dwelling place there is pain, suffering for your sins, but the final judgment comes at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment!

It is after this that the unsaved will enter into the Lake of Fire, Outer Darkness for eternity!

So – ***WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .***

#### **10. BECAUSE IT IS THE PATH TO ETERNAL LIFE!**

Jesus said to Martha in John 11:25-26, “**. . . ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’**”

Notice what Jesus said here. He said, “**I AM the Resurrection and the Life.**” (11:25)

Jesus is not telling us that we will avoid a physical death, but rather He is promising us that He is the gateway to an everlasting life and fellowship with God in heaven.

How is this accomplished, how do I receive this everlasting life with Jesus?

There are three things that you need to do.

***ADMIT YOU ARE A SINNER!*** You see, if you don’t see yourself as a sinner, then why do you need a Savior? You don’t and that is the problem when people reject the fact that they are sinners, that they miss that mark of perfection.

And they may not even believe that they are perfect, but they feel that they are not that bad. Please understand that not being that bad or only having some minor sins is not perfection and that is the only righteousness that God will accept!

Once you can come before God and admit that your sins have separated you from Him, then comes the next step, calling out to the Savior!

***BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST!*** Now let me clarify this because it is not just believing that Jesus is real. It is a belief that causes you to move from the direction you are going and move towards Christ.

You see, even the demons believe in Jesus. They even believe that He is God. In fact, they know that He is God since they were with Jesus when He created them. But they are not saved!

Do you believe that Jesus is God in human form (John 1:1, 14)?

Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21), for which you deserve eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23)?

Do you believe that the sacrifice of Jesus, God incarnate, is the only adequate payment for your sins (1 John 2:2; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)?

Do you believe these things?

If so, great, but believing the facts about Jesus is only part of the equation. Biblical faith/belief is far more than believing certain things to be true. Biblical saving faith is also trusting/relying on those facts.

A chair is a good illustration. You can look at a chair and believe it is made of materials strong enough to support your weight, and you can believe that it was assembled correctly. But that is not biblical faith.

Biblical faith is sitting in the chair. It is actually relying on the chair to hold your weight off the ground.

Are you trusting that Jesus is your Savior?

Are you relying on His death as the full payment for your sin?

Are you depending on His resurrection as the guarantee that you will be raised to eternal life after death?

Not that it could ever happen, but if the *“chair”* of Jesus Christ were pulled out from beneath you, spiritually speaking, would you hit the ground, or are you also relying on things in addition to the chair?

If you understand and believe what the Bible says about Jesus, and if you are trusting in those truths as the basis for salvation - you are saved! You *“believe in Jesus”* in the biblical sense.

If you are uncertain if you truly believe in Jesus but you desire to, or if you feel God drawing you to faith in Jesus, the next step is simple. Believe! Trust in Jesus! Rely on Him for your salvation. Allow God to turn you from sin to forgiveness and salvation.

- <http://bit.ly/3YP1mzs>

And the last point is this.

***FOREVER BELIEVE!*** As I just shared with you, it is placing our lives in the hands of Jesus knowing that He can carry us. He has saved us from our sins through His shed blood on the cross of Calvary and His resurrection from the dead three days later!

***WHY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SO IMPORTANT . . .***

***BECAUSE BELIEVERS ARE JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD!***

***BECAUSE JESUS DEFEATED DEATH!***

***BECAUSE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IS TRUE!***

***BECAUSE IT PROVES THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD!***

***BECAUSE IT MEANS THAT GOD THE FATHER WILL SEND US THE HOLY SPIRIT!***

***BECAUSE IT GIVES US A LIVING HOPE!***

***BECAUSE WE WILL BE RAISED LIKE HIM!***

***BECAUSE JESUS WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS!***

***BECAUSE IT IS THE PATH TO ETERNAL LIFE!***

Remember, for the believer, he doesn't die, he just moves his residence from these bodies of flesh on the earth to a new body in heaven with the Lord.

And remember the challenge that Jesus gives to Martha and to all of us, "**Do you believe this?**"

Notice that Jesus challenges Martha to believe what He has said, not to debate it or argue about it or rationalize it in her head, but believe. And He does the same with us today.

If you are not a believer all you need to do is simply make a prayer to Jesus. Repent of your sins and ask Him to be Lord and Savior of your life.

Your prayer may go something like this,

***“God, I know that I have sinned. I know that my sin separates me from you. I know that if left unforgiven, my sin will separate me from you for eternity. I believe and trust that Jesus Christ is my Savior, that He died to pay the full penalty for my sins and that He rose from the dead on the third day. I am relying on His sacrifice alone to bring me into a right relationship with you. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for saving me. Help me to grow closer to you each and every day for the rest of my life.”***

If you have made that prayer or maybe you just have questions, let me know. Talk with me. If you are here or listening on the radio or watching on the Internet, don't let this resurrection day pass you by without coming to saving faith!

And for all of us, let me share this with you to give you a picture of what is coming. We are told,

In the days when any country boy could stand in front of a blacksmith's shop and watch with fascinated eyes what happened there, something analogous to the resurrection of the body occurred.

The smith would put a rusty, cold, dull piece of iron into the fire, and, after awhile, take that identical piece of iron out of the fire, but now bright and glowing.

Thus it will be with our bodies: they are laid down in the grave, dead, heavy, earthly; but at the general resurrection this dead, heavy, earthly body shall arise living and glorious.

- Illustrations of Bible Truths

***WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THE RESURRECTION?***

I pray that you have clearly seen why the resurrection of Jesus Christ is such a big deal and you leave here more in love with Jesus than when you came in!

Remember the importance of the resurrection of Jesus, what Paul said, “**For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.**” I Corinthians 15:3-4.