

The Resurrection

041617AM

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 / Hebrews 6:1-3

- Many of Jesus' statements are controversial, repentance from dead works, faith toward God, the doctrine of baptisms, the laying on of hands being just a few.
- Maybe nothing more controversial than the resurrection of the dead!
- The resurrection is a fundamental first principle of the faith, part of the foundation without which nothing else can stand – Heb. 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:14-15.
- Christians need to be able to give an answer for their hope – 1 Pet. 3:15.

Vital to the Lord's Teaching

- Jn. 5:24-29 “for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth”
- Jn. 6:39-40, 44, 54 – the will of the Father includes the resurrection of the dead “at the last day.”

A Demonstration of His Power Over Death

- Mat. 11:5 “The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.”
- Mk. 5:35-43 – Jairus' daughter; Lk. 7:11-17 – widow of Nain's son; Jn. 11:38-44 – Lazarus.

The Resurrection of Christ

- Jesus promised that He would be resurrected – Mk. 8:31 “And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.”
- His disciples and His enemies were aware of it – Mat. 27:62-66.
Eyewitness testimony supports key facts:
- That He was truly dead – Mk. 15:43-45 “Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.” Cf. Jn. 19:31-37.
- That He was buried in a tomb – Mk. 15:46-47; Lk. 23:55.
- That He was resurrected – Lk. 24:36-43; Jn. 20:19-29; Acts 1:1-

3; 1 Cor. 15:3-8.

- Jesus' resurrection supports the hope of the general resurrection – 1 Cor. 6:14 “And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.” Cf. 2 Cor. 4:14.
- Rejecting Jesus' resurrection also rejects the general resurrection, and vice versa.

The Apostles Preached the Resurrection

- The preaching of the Great Commission was based on their witness of His resurrection – Acts 1:21-22; 4:33.
- Their preaching focused on it – Acts 2:32; 3:14-15; 5:30-32; 10:39-42; 13:30-31; etc.

If Christ was not raised...

- The preaching of the Gospel is vain – 1 Cor. 15:14.
- Christian faith is in vain – 1 Cor. 15:14.
- The apostles were false witnesses - 1 Cor. 15:15.
- We are still in our sins – 1 Cor. 15:17.
- Christians have perished, without hope, at death – 1 Cor. 15:18.
- Christians are of all people, the most to be pitied – 1 Cor. 15:19.
– Because they believe in a false Redeemer.
– Because they are often ridiculed or persecuted for their faith.

The Results of Believing in the Resurrection of the Dead

Obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Acts 2:29-39 – 3000 believing Jews!
- Rom. 10:9 “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”
- Rom. 6:3-6; 1 Pet. 3:21 – baptism, the biblical resurrection celebration! – Acts 2:41; 8:8; 8:39; 16:34.

Decision...

- There is little that is more important than the resurrection!
- It is the heart of the Gospel message.
- Will you be raised with Christ from baptism so you can be raised from death for heaven?