Resurrection. What is it? [NP2c27042019Resurection]

Last week we had Easter… What was that all about?

*This is such an interesting subject.*

*Others who have been famous throughout the religious world who claimed to be the answer, prophets and the like are still in their graves.*

*Not only was Jesus raised from the dead, but he was also transformed.*

*That was one of the reasons that his disciples did not recognize Him.*

*He was transformed from His physical self to a spiritual person.*

*His Disciples’, as us are carnal. Anyway, that’s another lot of teaching..*

The Dictionary says:

The **resurrection of Jesus** is the [Christian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) belief that [God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God) raised [Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus) from the dead after [his crucifixion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion_of_Jesus).

In [Christian theology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_theology), the death and resurrection of Jesus are the most **important events**, a **foundation** of the Christian faith, and commemorated by [Easter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter).

Notice the world doesn’t recognise the Transformation.

I have broken this teaching into 10 parts.

1. **Resurrection the core of the Christian message**
2. **Belief in Jesus's physical resurrection is the defining doctrine of Christianity.**
3. **The resurrection demonstrates to the whole universe the deity of Jesus and God’s love for him.**
4. **Without the resurrection, there would have been no church at all.**
5. **Our neglect of Jesus's resurrection may be one of the reasons our gospel preaching is so powerless.**
6. **The resurrection purchased our justification.**
7. **The resurrection gives us the joy of knowing that Christ is with us today!**
8. **The resurrection gives us hope that goes beyond the grave.**
9. **The resurrection unites every Christian with the life-giving spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.**
10. **. Because of the resurrection, we can know that Jesus is personally coming back to judge and rule the world.**

**1.** **The resurrection is the core of the Christian message and should never be neglected or assumed**.

Nowadays, when we hear the gospel preached, the focus is usually on life’s experience, sin, redemption or the cross and what that means

The **resurrection** is often ignored, or just assumed, or mentioned only in passing.

The preaching recorded in the book of Acts emphasized the **resurrection of Jesus**, and barely mentioned his death.

The apostles were preoccupied with **the resurrection** and emphasized it much more than the cross.

Sadly, the church only seems to get excited about the **resurrection** once a year at **Easter time**.

The reality is**,**

**Every Sunday** should be **Resurrection Sunday.**

The reason why the early church began to meet on the **first day** of the week was to celebrate

**Jesus's defeat of death**.

Imagine what church would be like if we consciously gathered *every* week to celebrate the resurrection?

**2**. **Belief in Jesus's physical resurrection is the defining doctrine of Christianity.**

The interesting fact is, that every **Christian denomination**—from the Orthodox to the Catholic, from the Pentecostal to the Reformed Baptist—all believe this one simple truth:

**the tomb was empty**.

That is the one fundamental fact we all agree on!

There are some who deny the physical resurrection of Jesus.

And in that they **forfeit the right** to call themselves **Christian**.

**Basically** a Christian is someone who **believes in** the **physical resurrection of Jesus Christ**

This is based on Paul’s clear promise in

**Romans 10:9 New International Version (NIV)**

**9**If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved**.

**3.The resurrection demonstrates to the whole universe the deity of Jesus and God’s love for him.**

Jesus was, **“declared to be the Son of God** in **power** according to the **Spirit of holiness** by his **resurrection from the dead”**

# **Romans 1:4 New International Version (NIV)**

**4**and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+1%3A4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27935a)] by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is the resurrection of Jesus that reveals his true nature to all who will see:

# “God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance . . . and forgiveness of sins”

# **Acts 5:30-31 New International Version (NIV)**

**30**The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. **31**God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.

4. **Without the resurrection, there would have been no church at all.**

After Jesus's arrest and death, the disciples were lost, helpless, and afraid.

Peter denied Jesus, whilst the rest ran away.

It is hard to conceive of anything other than the **resurrection of Jesus** that would have led to this group of very ordinary people sharing the message of Jesus in such a way that it grew into the largest religious movement ever known to man.

Without their unwavering confidence in Jesus's **resurrection**, would the disciples have risked everything, and in many cases been killed for their faith?

People die all the time for falsehoods that they themselves genuinely believe to be true.

It is, however, impossible to believe that all of the disciples would die for something they knew to be a deliberate deception.

The church **did not create** the **resurrection** stories; instead, the **resurrection stories** created **the church**.

**5**. **Our neglect of Jesus's resurrection may be one of the reasons our gospel preaching is so powerless**.

*Spurgeon examined the preaching of his day and felt the reason for its lack of power was its lack of emphasis on the resurrection. Spurgeon determined to emphasize the message of the resurrection, and saw thousands of conversions as a result.* If we choose to neglect the preaching of the resurrection, should we be surprised if we don’t see similar results?

# When Paul spoke about the gospel, he always meant the announcement of **the glorious victory of the risen King**. It is *this* gospel that is "**the power of God**

# **Romans 1:16 New International Version (NIV)**

**16**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

**6**. **The resurrection purchased our justification.**

When you ask most Christians about justification, they move straight to the cross of Jesus paying the price for our sins.

But if justification simply means an absence of guilt, then we have a blank slate and have to spend the rest of our lives worrying about if we will mess it up again.

Paul tells us in the contrary: "He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification"

#  **Romans 4:25 New International Version (NIV)**

**25**He was **delivered** over to **death for our sins** and was raised to life for **our justification**.

What this means is that when **Jesus rose again**

He was declared **to be righteous**—not just **lacking any sin**, but **embodying holiness**.

Jesus's **perfection** outweighed **the debt** of **our s**ins. And now, the **Christian** is counted as **righteous.**

Without **this truth**, we will not fully grasp the joy of **salvation**.

**Jesus was our obedient substitute during his life, our punishment substituted in his death, and our rebirth substitute in his resurrection**.

**7.** **The resurrection gives us the joy of knowing that Christ is with us today!**

He has **promised** that

He will be with us to the end of time.

This changes everything.

A dead hero in the grave is no help to us.

But a **risen Savior** in heaven gives us great confidence!

Because the tomb is empty and Jesus is on the throne, we can know for sure that we will be **victorious** irrespective of what is happening in today’s world.

Jesus said in

**Matthew 16:18 New International Version (NIV)**

**18**And I tell you that you are Peter,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+16%3A18&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-23691a" \o "See footnote a)] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+16%3A18&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23691b)] will not overcome it.

**8.** **The resurrection gives us hope that goes beyond the grave.**

We live in a broken world.

Every Christian will at some point in their lives know the pain of grieving for a loved one.

When Paul told us

**1 Thessalonians 4:13 New International Version (NIV)**

**Believers Who Have Died**

**13**Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be un-informed about those who **sleep in death**, so that you do not grieve like the rest of man-kind, who **have no hope**.

he did not mean that we would not experience sadness.

He meant, because Jesus conquered the grave, we have confidence that one day we too **will rise**,

and so meet both Jesus and our believing loved ones again.

This changes everything when we come face to face with death.

**9. The resurrection unites every Christian with the life-giving spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.**

It is through the resurrection that,

**1 Corinthians 15:45 New International Version (NIV)**

**45**So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being” the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

Paul tells us, "the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you"

**Romans 8:11 New International Version (NIV**)

**11**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you

This amazing power is available to **transform**, **equip**, and **empower** us:

**Ephesians 1:19-20 New International Version (NIV)**

**19**and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is the same as the mighty strength

**20**he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

**10.** **Because of the resurrection, we can know that Jesus is personally coming back to judge and rule the world.**

It is a source of great joy for the Christian that Jesus will return.

But it should also cause great concern for those who are living estranged from him.

Because of the resurrection, we can be sure that this same Jesus will return again:

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he **commands all people** everywhere to **repent**,

**Acts 17:30-31 New International Version (NIV)**

**30**In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now **he commands all** people everywhere **to repent**.

**31**For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed.

**He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”**

***Re-Cap subject matter above.***

**Prayer to finish**

Thank you Father, that once again, through the **Holy Spirit** we have a glimpse of what **Your** plan is for us in **Your** **Kingdom**.

Lord that through the **Cross** and the **Resurrection of Your Son** **Jesus**, and our own **Baptism** we have the same **Spirit** dwelling in us that brought the world’s into being, Rose Christ from the dead and leads us daily.

Thank You,

Our HOPE is in You
Bless You, Father. Bless You Jesus and Bless You Holy Spirit.

Keep working in our lives DAILY.

Amen