

Basic Christian Doctrine #5

THE DOCTRINE OF THE RESURRECTION

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...” (1 Cor.15:1-4).

INTRODUCTION

- The resurrection is a major theme in the book of Acts (2:24; 3:15; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:23,20,30,37; 26:8) and many of the epistles of Paul (Rom.8:11; 10:9; 1 Cor.6:14; 15:15; 2 Cor.4:14; Gal.1:1; Eph.1:20; 1 Thess.1:10), and in Christ’s own teaching (Matt. 20:19; Mark 9:9; 14:28; Luke 18:33; John 2:19-22).
- The resurrection is closely connected with the cross in our Lord’s teaching (Mt.16:21; 20:18-19; Mk.8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34; Lk.18:32-33; Jn.10:17-18).
- The Apostle Peter also links the atonement with the resurrection (1 Pet.1:2-4; 3:18-22).

1. THE RESURRECTION WAS FORETOLD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

(Psalm 16:10; 2:7; Isa.55:3; Compare Acts 13:33-39).

2. THE RESURRECTION IS ONE OF THE MAJOR DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND OF THE GOSPEL

-The atonement would be powerless and meaningless without it, “If Christ be not risen, our faith is vain” (1 Cor.15:14).

3. PROOFS OF THE RESURRECTION

Eleven resurrection appearances of our risen Lord are recorded in the New Testament. They are:

- (1) To Mary Magdalene at the sepulcher alone. This is recorded at length only by John (20:11-18), and alluded to by Mark (16:9-11).
- (2) To certain women, "the other Mary," Salome, Joanna, and others, as they returned from the sepulcher. Matthew (28:1-10) alone gives an account of this. (Comp. Mark 16:1-8, and Luke 24:1-11).
- (3) To Simon Peter alone on the day of the resurrection. (See Luke 24:34; 1 Cor.15:5.)
- (4) To the two disciples (Cleopas and his companion) on the way to Emmaus on the day of the resurrection, recorded fully only by Luke (24:13-35. Comp. Mark 16:12, 13).
- (5) To the ten disciples (Thomas being absent) and others "with them," at Jerusalem on the evening of the resurrection day. One of the gospels gives an account of this appearance, John (20:19-24).
- (6) To the disciples again (Thomas being present) at Jerusalem (Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:33-40; John 20:26-28. See also 1 Cor.15:5).
- (7) To the disciples when fishing at the Sea of Galilee. Of this appearance also John (21:1-23) alone gives an account.
- (8) To the eleven, and above 500 brethren at once, at an appointed place in Galilee (1 Cor. 15:6; comp. Matt. 28:16-20).
- (9) To James the Lord’s brother, but under what circumstances we are not informed (1 Cor. 15:7).
- (10) To the apostles immediately before the ascension. They accompanied him from Jerusalem to Mount Olivet, and there they saw him ascend "till a cloud received him out of their sight" (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:4-10).

(11) To the Apostle Paul (Acts 9:1-9; 1 Cor.15:8; 9:1).

4. THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

The resurrection is spoken of as the act (1) of God the Father (Ps. 16:10; Acts 2:24; 3:15; Rom. 8:11; Eph. 1:20; Col. 2:12; Heb. 13:20); (2) of Christ himself (John 2:19; 10:18); and (3) of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).

5. DOCTRINAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

- (1) The resurrection is evidence of the Father's acceptance of his work of redemption.
- (2) It is a victory over death and the grave for all his followers.
- (3) The importance of Christ's resurrection will be seen when we consider that if he rose the gospel is true, and if he rose not it is false.
- (4) His resurrection is a proof that he made a full atonement for our sins, that his sacrifice was accepted as a satisfaction to divine justice and his blood a ransom for sinners.
- (5) It is also a pledge and an earnest of the resurrection of all believers (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:47-49; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2). As he lives, they shall live also.
- (6) It proved him to be the Son of God, inasmuch as it authenticated all his claims (John 2:19; 10:17).
- (7) A report circulated that said the Roman soldiers were bribed (Matt. 28:12-14) to say "his disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept."
- (8) The resurrection gives meaning to baptism (Rom.6:1-7).

6. THE RESURRECTION IS AN HISTORICAL FACT

-The scriptures are the most reliable, accurate, trustworthy historical record known to man.

Acts 2:29-32: "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."

John 20:1-9: "Now the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw *that* the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." 3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. 4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. 5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, 7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must raise again from the dead.

APPLICATIONS

1. Do you believe in the resurrection of Christ?
2. Has Christ raised you from the dead spiritually?
3. Do you renew that resurrection (life) daily?

This outline was prepared by Pastor Joe Jacowitz
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