

The Importance of the Resurrection

1 Cor. 15:12-20

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would strongly be tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal." (Stedman quoting C.S. Lewis)

- I. When Christ redeemed us, he did not just redeem our spirits and souls, he redeemed us as a whole person meaning that he redeemed our bodies also. He redeemed a believer's body, soul and spirit for glorification so that we could dwell with him as a whole resurrected person for eternity; that's eternal life. This is the hope we possess because of our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

1 Cor. 15:35-58

Job 14:5 *A person's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed.*

1 Cor. 15:42-44 *42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is **raised imperishable**; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is **raised in glory**; it is sown in weakness, it is **raised in power**; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is **raised a spiritual body**. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.*

1 Thess. 4:16-17 *For the LORD himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And so we will be with the LORD forever.*

- II. Without the truth of the resurrection, we would have no hope beyond the grave. In Fact, without the resurrection the Scriptures would be without inerrant truth and meaningless. Our faith would be a joke and no different than what non-believers put their faith in. Like the unredeemed, we would still be dead in our sins and surely lost.

1 Cor. 15:12-19

Luke 24:46-47

Luke 16:22-26

Rom. 1:17

Jn. 8:23

Heb. 6:18-19

Eph. 2:12-13

2 Corinthians 5:1-3 *1For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, 3because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.*

- III. Unbelief does not nullify the truth of Christ's resurrection. As believers **our witness is not a useless** expression of the gospel. It has power and is based on the absolute truth of his resurrection. As believers **our faith is not useless**. It has value, it's powerful, full of hope, meaning and encouragement, and it gives us confidence as we eagerly anticipate our glorification as those who are blessed to be counted among the redeemed.

1 Cor. 15:20

2 Cor. 4:5-7

Rom. 6:20-23

2 Cor. 5:6

1 Peter 1:3-5 *3Praise be to the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*