

Resurrection Sunday 2009

*1 Peter 1:3-9 (NKJV) ³Blessed 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**, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

Matthew 28 The Resurrection – Our Living Hope

- The fact that Jesus could die confirms His humanity. He is a person just like we are. He had a body just like we do.
- The fact that Jesus rose from the dead confirms His deity.
 - Death is the great stopper, the ultimate limitation for all of us.
 - It reminds us that we have restrictions placed upon us – we can only do so much, go so far, live so long.
 - Jesus Christ is not bound by those same restrictions. He is God.
- Christ's resurrection also serves as an example of what will happen to us one day. If Jesus can rise from the dead Himself, He can certainly raise us as well.

Christ's Authority Mat 28:18

- Part of that authority includes the authority to be our final judge.

*Acts 17:30-31 (NKJV) ³⁰Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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.**"*

- Jesus Christ is one day going to judge us. He will do so in righteousness – complete fairness, perfect justice. There will be no favoritism, excessive severity or excessive leniency.
- We will be judged in righteousness not only by God, but by a Man, the God-Man Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹Therefore we make it our aim ... to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- That judgment need not be a frightening thing, because when we are in Christ, He gives us the ability to live a life pleasing to Him.
- But that ability does not kick in automatically. **We have to learn to do His will. (Discipleship)**

- **Disciples are learners**, other newer followers of Jesus who will learn from us how to follow Him, but doing what He commands – which, of course, includes making other disciples.
- Importantly, we are to disciple all the nations. From the beginning the church was commanded to be international in its scope.

Baptizing Them, Teaching Them Mat 28:19-20

- Christ's death and resurrection can be seen in the relationship our old life of sin has to our new life in Christ.
- That relationship is symbolized by baptism.
 - Going down into the water is like dying and going down into the grave.
 - Coming up from the water is like rising from the dead.
 - Baptism illustrates the fact that we are new creatures in Christ.

*Romans 6:1-11 (NKJV) ¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of **His resurrection**, ⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹knowing that Christ, **having been raised from the dead**, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Likewise you also, reckon [count] yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Nonetheless, we are not saved by water baptism, we are saved by faith in Christ.

- We must publicly acknowledge Him as our Lord.
- We must believe in His resurrection.

*Romans 10:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹... 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. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."*