



Resurrection and the life!!

One of the most important beliefs that Christians have is the belief that Jesus has conquered death and hell by rising victorious from the cross. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15 v 12 – 19 That if Jesus has not risen from the dead, our faith is futile and we might as well live our lives fully in the world. It cannot be overstressed how important the doctrine of the resurrection is, for as Scripture encourages us, much of the hope and promise that we have in Jesus is found in the life that is to come.

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

Q1) What scares you / excites you about death and resurrection?

Q2) What evidence do you think there is that Jesus DID rise from the dead?

Q3) How do you think believing in the resurrection of Jesus, should effect our lives today?

Point 1 – Christians believe in a bodily resurrection

In the book of Genesis we see how God creates a physical world and declares that everything He has made is good. It was into this physical world that God created man, making him both physical and spiritual. When Jesus came into the world it is testified of Him that just like us he was both physical and spiritual. This is important because some in the early church did not believe that Jesus actually ever had a physical body. When Jesus rose from the dead it is clear that this was a physical resurrection, that was testified to by Jesus Himself. After His resurrection, Jesus broke bread, ate fish, allowed His disciples to touch Him and actually said to them that He did these things so that they would know He was not some disembodied spirit. Christians do not believe in reincarnation, or the resurrection of a disembodied spirit, we believe in bodily resurrection, the perishable transformed imperishable. This new body is given us to fit the new conditions of heaven. It is a body that will not suffer, get ill, decay or get sick. It is a body that cannot get injured, will not get old, or die and is perfect for the physical dimension of the life that is to come. Luke 24 v 36 – 49, Acts 10 v 39 – 43, John 20 v 24 – 30. 1 Corinthians 15 v 42 – 44, Revelation 21v 1– 4

Point 2 - Jesus is the first fruits for those who believe.

Scripture makes it clear that the reason why man experiences decay and death is a result of the fall of Adam in the garden of Eden. Since that day every human being has been bound to the curse of sin and it's consequences. The truth that we find in Jesus is that He came to defeat and destroy all the work of the devil and sin. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the seal of that victory. By rising from the dead He has proven His victory over sin by even cancelling death and opening the way to everlasting life to all who put their trust in Him. Jesus is the first to go through the experience of death and be resurrected from the dead. He has gone before us, opened up the way, and we to are promised to share in this experience because of personal faith in Him. Just as all were enslaved to death through Adam, so all WILL experience resurrection life through personal faith in Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15v 20– 26, Romans 5 v 12– 21

Point 3 – Through resurrection power we are set free to truly live our lives for Jesus.

One of the simple facts about the early church is that the followers of Jesus were prepared to even suffer and die for their personal faith in Jesus. Even today in areas of the world where the church is persecuted, Christians are prepared to go through serious risk and even death to be faithful to their Saviour. The reason for this is that the hope and power of the resurrection, sets us free from fear. Scripture declares to us that when we are “Born Again” we are released to live in the power of the resurrection. This means that both the power of the resurrection empowers us and the seeds of that resurrection life are implanted into our lives. One of these seeds is the confident, living hope that we have, that death is not end of our existence, but we will be raised to new life. This hope sets us free from the fears of this world and the fear of death itself. This living hope enables us to focus our lives on the eternal reality that is promised us, thus setting us free to take risks and live freely for Jesus today. This enables us to join with Paul in saying, “To live is Christ, to die is gain.” Philippians 1 v 21 – 24, 2 Corinthians 4 v 13 – 18

Point 4 – Resurrection life is part of the reward for all those who follow

Jesus. Time and time again the Word of God promises us the hope of eternal life. This word “eternal life,” means both fullness of life now and everlasting life when we die. This is the promised hope of the children of God. If we follow Jesus faithfully and acknowledge Him before man today– He will be faithful to us and acknowledge us before His Father in heaven. It is God's desire to create for Himself a people who will belong to Him not only on this earth, but be His people for eternity. God calls us and begins His good work in us now – but He completes this good work in us, through the reality of the resurrection. It is the fulfilment of our faith, to be raised from the dead, to see our Jesus face to face, to receive that crown of life, and to live with Him for eternity. Therefore death for a Christian is a joyful event, for it is an experience we go through to release us into the full inheritance and reward we have in Christ. Romans 8 v 18 – 25, John 3 v 16 – 18, Revelation 20 v 11 – 15, John 4 v 24 – 30

