

Resurrected

Happy Easter! Today is what we call Resurrection Sunday. The day where Christians all around the world celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

PRAY (include churches around the world)

There are many important parts of the gospel including the earthly birth of Jesus, and his atonement for our sin (which I'll cover shortly) but while all parts are necessary, what we celebrate today, is the most important part of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:14-17 (NKJV)

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

Paul says that if Jesus had not risen, our faith is worthless and we are still in our sins! The resurrection is important! Jesus certainly did die for you, He certainly did pay the price for your sin, but He goes way beyond that!

Do you want the good news or the bad news first? Well, either way you are getting the bad news first! The good news doesn't seem so good if you don't know the bad news.

To realize the significance of what Jesus has done, we have to understand where we are without Him. So I want to quickly look at our natural condition (the bad news)...sin!

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

.....through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

When Adam sinned in the very beginning (found in Genesis 1) sin was imputed to all of mankind.

Impute - to charge (a person) with an act or quality because of the conduct of another over whom one has control or for whose acts or conduct one is responsible.

Through Adam, sin entered the world, to all mankind. Adam, the first man, was our representative. He allowed sin to enter the world and that sin was imputed to us, a polluted and sinful nature.

Everyone is born a sinner. There are no exceptions aside from Jesus!

You can see the evidence of imputed sin in death. Death, both physical and spiritual, are the result of sin.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

For the wages of sin is death

But beyond the original sin which includes both guilt and pollution, we have actual sin. Actual sin not only consists of our outward acts but also conscious thoughts, desires, and decisions that come from original sin.

You can see the evidence in the heart of man.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV)

9 “The heart is deceitful above all things,
And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?

Matthew 15:19 (NIV)

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Stop trying to justify your actions with the God knows my heart garbage. He does know your heart, and it's sinful! There is none good but God!

Romans 3:12 (NKJV)

12 They have all turned aside;
They have together become unprofitable;
There is none who does good, no, not one.

1 John 1:8 (NKJV)

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Too often people look around and instead of realizing that they fall short of God, they compare themselves to others. “Well at least I’m not as bad as THAT guy”, “I’m doing better than so and so”

SO WHAT????

There is still a gap between you and God created by your sin. You being “better” than someone else doesn’t close the gap. It doesn’t do anything for you!

Imagine you're standing on the edge of a cliff on one side of a deep canyon, and you need to get to the other side a thousand feet away. Will it help you if you can jump a bit further than other people?

If you were an old man and don’t get around well, when trying to leap across, you'd only fly a few feet and then you'd plunge down to the rocks below. If you were younger and stronger, you might jump several feet further, but you'd still end up falling and smashing yourself on the rocks below.

If you were the world record holder in the long jump, and you had the wind at your back, you might fly further than anybody else, but so what? You'd still fall way short and perish. It doesn't matter how you compare to others.

What matters is whether you can cover the distance between you and God. And you can't. You can try with all your might, but if all you've got is your own ability, you're going to land in the abyss of hell. All have sinned and fall short-- far short--of the glory of God. When you want to cross a canyon a thousand feet wide, you don't need to improve your jumping. You need a bridge.....Jesus!

Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV)

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

WE ALL NEED JESUS! He reconciles us to God the Father!

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Jesus offers us the gift of salvation. A gift is free, it costs you nothing, but it costs the one who bought it for you!

Salvation is offered to us free of charge. It doesn’t cost you a thing. But it cost Jesus, He paid a heavy price.

As we consider this price. It seems like a no brainer, after all, He was the only person that could pay it. But that doesn’t make it any less significant or easier to swallow.

- He was betrayed by a friend, someone who He invested years of His life into.
- He was arrested unfairly
- He was falsely accused of a crime He didn't commit
- People struck Him and spit in His face

- Jesus was beaten and thrown in jail
- They placed a crown of thorns on His head
- Jesus was slapped and mocked
- Jesus had his beard torn out
- He was tied to a stake and whipped
- Jesus was forced to carry His cross
- He was nailed to that very cross and put on display for all to see
- Jesus died and He was buried

Disgusting, horrendous, shameful people that did this to Him.....You did it to Him.... I did it to Him....

Romans 3:25 (NLT)

For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.

Remember...

Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

No one here today is innocent of having a part in this.

We must not forget that it wasn't the Jews that put him on the cross, and it wasn't the Romans. It was my sins, it was your sins, the sins of this world. ~ **Franklin Graham**

The amazing thing is Jesus allowed all of this to happen to Him, He remained obedient to the Father in order to save the very people who did this to Him. THAT IS LOVE!

Jesus paid this heavy price not only because He could, but because He's the only one that could afford it. He was the only one that could pay the price. No one else had enough to offer.....

Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Dale Evans said, "I spent most of my life searching for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Then I finally found it at the foot of the cross."

There's nothing more amazing than the love of Christ, poured out for all mankind, and His blood that was shed on the cross, that we may be forgiven.....That is what people are searching for!

But as I said earlier, it doesn't end there. Thank You Jesus! Here's the GOOD NEWS....

Matthew 28:1-8 (NKJV)

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

Jesus is ALIVE! This is the most exciting part! THAT is what we celebrate today!

By His resurrection, Jesus overcame death! This allows us to receive His righteousness

Remember.....

1 Corinthians 15:14-17 (NKJV)

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

Jesus died in order to endure the curse for our sins. We know this was accomplished by the resurrection!

Romans 4:25 (NIV)

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

Christ's resurrection show the Father's acceptance of His atonement for our sins!

The first benefit of the resurrection is that there is righteousness and freedom from condemnation for all who believe in Him.

Romans 5:1 (NIV)

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Another benefit of the resurrection is that by the power of Christ, we are raised up with Him to new life!

Ephesians 2:5-6 (NIV)

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

New life is possible because of His resurrection! If you are united with Christ through faith in Him.....you are renewed spiritually, the old self is dead, you have been made new!

This means by the power of the risen Christ we have a new ability to live differently.

Colossians 3:1-5 (NIV)

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Instead, as Christ was raised from the dead, we are to walk in the newness of life

Romans 6:4 (NIV)

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

And because of the resurrection, our own resurrection is guaranteed!

Romans 5:21 (NKJV)

21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The experience of new life the Jesus offers us will always be incomplete in this life. But there will be completion when the Lord comes to complete His work at the end.

Jesus is known as the “first fruits” of the resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:20 (NIV)

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

He is called this because His own resurrection has secured a whole crop of resurrections on the last day.

When this occurs, all who believe in Him will be given new, imperishable bodies. On that day there will be no more tears, no more death, no more pain. All who share this hope have strength for the difficulties of this life.

WORSHIP TEAM COME

John 11:25-26 (NKJV)

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

If you do, this is something you can receive TODAY! Don't let this opportunity pass by. Today, is the day, not next week, not next year. Today is the day to get right with the Lord

There is no other way to God, no other way of salvation. Jesus is the Son of God, so if you reject him, the Father will reject you. Jesus is the living Word. Jesus is heaven's light and life, so apart from him there is only hell.

Jesus is salvation. Jesus is life. Jesus is light. Jesus is God. If a road leads anywhere besides Jesus, it doesn't lead to God. The Lord cannot be other than he is. You must either receive him as he is, or not at all.

"He who has the Son of God has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12).

It requires repentance.

Repentance and forgiveness of sins, that is the. message rooted in the resurrection of Jesus that says new starts are possible.

In the resurrection there is a release from the past and all that shames and shackles you.

Repentance and forgiveness flows directly out from the resurrection because it is saying new creation is starting, you can leave the old behind and follow Jesus into the new life which He has prepared for all who accept Him.