Raised From the Dead to …

***John 20:1-9***

***Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb , and we don't know where they have put him!"***

***3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb . 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb . He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)***

***Luke 24:9 – 12 -When they came back from the tomb , they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb . Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.***

The Women thought Jesus’ body was stolen

Peter wondered

John believed

***Matt 28:16-17 - Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.***

SOME DOUBTED!

Why did the Father raise Jesus from the dead?

The empty tomb wasn’t for Jesus to get out.

It was so we could get in and see for ourselves that He is alive!

* To demonstrate Jesus’ victory over death

***Acts 2:22-24 -"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.***

***Acts 2:29-32 - "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.***

The Father would not allow His Son’s body see decay.

The Father raised Him from the agony of death

It was impossible for death to keep its hold on HIM!

* To give us a hope of our own resurrection

**1 Cor 15:20-23 - But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him**

**1 Cor 15:56-57 - The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

* To testify to Jesus’ ability to offer repentance and forgiveness of sins

***Acts 5:30-31 - The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.***

**1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

* To testify to the Appointed Day of Judgment

***Acts 17:31 - For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him from the dead."***

What did we do with the Son of God?

God sent His Son into this world because of His great love for us

God gave His Son as a sacrifice to pay for the penalty of our sin

God poured His wrath for sin upon His Son so that we could receive the gift of eternal life

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH MY SON?

***Rev 20:12-15 - And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life . The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.***

If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he/she was thrown into the lake of fire.

Not because God hates them

Not because God doesn’t want them

Not because God is throwing a hissy fit

Because they choose not to accept the free gift of life

Because they refused to believe in Jesus Christ and receive His as Savior and Lord

Because they choose to go their own way and stand in their own righteousness

The resurrection assures us:

That life has defeated death

That the grave no longer holds its terror over the one who truly believes

That Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father praying for us, drawing us to repentance and extending the forgiveness of sins to all who call upon His name.

It tells us that judgment day is coming.

I have no fear of death – For I am crucified in Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me

I have no fear of the grave – For the trump of God shall sound and the dead in Christ shall rise

I have no fear of God’s wrath – For Jesus took my wrath and protects me from the wrath to come

I have no fear of the Lake of Fire – For in Christ I am an overcomer and am seated with Christ in heavenly places. The second death has no claim on me

I have no fear of seeing Christ – For I gladly will bow before Him and proclaim – You are my Savior, You are my Lord, You are my King, You are my God!

Are you ready for His coming?

Are you looking for His return?

Are you still wondering or doubting if this whole resurrection thing is real?

The choice is yours.

What will you do with God’s Son?