



## Christ Resurrection: The Keystone of Our Faith

### March 20, 2025

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(46:45)

I guess it is to be expected on Easter Sunday, more appropriately titled Resurrection Sunday, that people would talk about the subject of the resurrection of Christ. And I think it's very appropriate, as it has been historically for hundreds, yes, thousands of years, that lectures and sermons and articles and so forth would be written about the resurrection of Christ, primarily trying to prove that the resurrection occurred. Charles Spurgeon said this: *The resurrection of our divine Lord from the dead is the cornerstone of Christian doctrine. Perhaps, He says, I might more accurately call it the keystone of the arch of Christianity. For if that fact could be disproved, the whole fabric of the gospel would fall to the ground.* The resurrection of Christ is the key to Christianity. It's the linchpin to the Christian faith. And yet, interestingly enough, if you think about it, the most fundamental thing to Christianity is not a doctrine. It's an historical fact. And so, like I said, books and books and books, books that could probably fill this entire auditorium, have been written to prove that that fact occurred, to prove that the resurrection of Christ really occurred. Now, I'm going to answer that question for you once and for all. What proves that Jesus Christ really rose from the dead? Here's the answer, the Bible.

The word of God says He rose from the dead. I'm not going to go into all of the apologetics to prove an historical fact, which by the grace of God and the Holy Spirit operative in your life, has already caused you to come to believe and understand this is the divine-inspired word of Almighty God, and it says He rose from the dead. We take that today, at least, as fact, okay? But there's another question that always arises. We always say, just what I said, that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the linchpin of Christianity, that it's absolutely critical that if



you pull out the resurrection of Christ, you have no faith. It's the heart of the Christian faith that all falls flat. To quote Spurgeon, it's the keystone, everything falls... But the question is, why? Why, if you deny the resurrection of Christ, why does everything fall flat? Why is it that the resurrection of Christ is the key to everything in our Christian faith, everything that we believe? And that's what I want to look at today.

What does the resurrection verify? What does the resurrection authenticate? Why is it the key to all of these various doctrines? And I've already shown my whole card to Bob Winkler before the service started. We're not gonna cover it all today. So guess what? Get fired up. If I live long enough for one more week, we're gonna be talking about the resurrection of Christ and all these truths, we're gonna finish it next week. Because I want to do this justice, and I don't want to race through it. I'm gonna touch upon a couple of points that you're gonna go, "Oh, I've heard John teach on this aspect before." Trust me, we're going deeper than we've gone before on some of these, especially. There'll be something what every teacher, especially on Easter Sunday should do. There'll be something for the young in faith in Christ, and there'll be something for the mature. So hold on, here we go.

What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ verify? What does it make incontrovertible? What does it make inarguable in terms of our Christian faith? First thing, very clear, very basic, but very critical that you get. **The resurrection of Jesus Christ, quite simply, proves the truthfulness, the accuracy, the inspiration, the authenticity of the word of God**, of the word of God. Turn in your Bible to Acts 2. Acts 2. Why would I have you go to Acts 2? Well, first of all, it's the first day of the history of the church in terms of people coming into the church. The church is born on Pentecost. Over 3,000 people in response to one sermon by Peter come into the church. He stands up to preach this sermon, and as He moves into his sermon, the key point is that he's gonna rely on some key Old Testament passages, the only



scripture that existed when Peter got up to preach, okay? And he is going to show how the resurrection of Christ, and I'm gonna show you, authenticates those verses. Look in Acts 2, let's just pick it up in verse 23. ***This Man***, referring to Christ, Peter's preaching, ***delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. And, here we go, God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*** Okay, He's talking about the death, burial, and now the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But then he does something very interesting, introduces his topic and goes right to the word of God. And what does he quote, starting in verse 25? He quotes a portion of Psalm 16, here is what he says. ***For David says of Him***, Christ, Messiah, Christ, ***'I WAS ALWAYS BEHOLDING THE LORD IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND. THAT I MAY NOT BE SHAKEN. THEREFORE, MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXALTED. MOREOVER, MY FLESH ALSO WILL ABIDE IN HOPE; BECAUSE THOU WILT NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES.*** And by the way, in context there, Hades doesn't mean, excuse me, mean hell. It's a euphemism for death or the tomb, okay? And you have to always look at the word Hades in context. ***BECAUSE THOU WILT NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW THY HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. THOU HAST MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE;*** (Some translations say ***THOU HAST RESTORED ME TO THE WAYS OF LIFE***). ***THOU WILT MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH THY PRESENCE.*** Let me stop right there.

He's quoting David. He's quoting King David. He's quoting the shepherd David. He's quoting, David wrote Psalm 16. What was David writing about? Oh, some say David was writing about himself. Au contraire, he was not writing about himself. How do you know he was not writing about himself? Because David died. David went to the tomb. His soul did undergo decay, if you will. He was not in this life returned again to the ways of life. It could not refer to David. And Peter even, by the way, always remember this. You've heard me say it a zillion times, but



for those of you who haven't, now you've heard it. The best commentary on the Word of God is the Word of God itself. And Peter now is going to explain to us divine-inspired scripture is gonna tell us what Psalm 16 is talking about, what David was talking about. Look at verse 29. **Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, here you go, and his tomb is with us to this day.** They knew where David was buried at that time, okay? **And so, because he was a prophet...** (by the way, did you ever think of King David, did you ever think of the shepherd David as one of the prophets? He literally was a prophet. What is a prophecy? Foretelling the future, foretelling truth, and forthtelling truth. David was a prophet. God inspired him to write Psalm 16 and others with several messianic, prophetic provisions in there.) **...and so, verse 30, and so, because he, David, was a prophet, and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SET ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE,...** where is that coming from? That's Psalm 89:3-4. That's 2 Samuel 7:12-14. We're gonna get there. So what? **...He looked ahead, verse 31, and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ.** And another one, David wrote Psalm 16, Peter says, he wasn't talking about David. He was looking ahead under the auspices of the power of the Spirit of God, and was speaking about Christ, the Messiah, to come. **And he was speaking of the resurrection of Christ, THAT HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID HIS FLESH SUFFER DECAY. "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ..."** I'll stop right there, okay? Again, David is speaking prophetically here.

To sum up Peter's argument, his logic is this. Psalm 16 refers to somebody being resurrected. It can't be David. Messiah was to come, was David's greater son, out of David's loins. The Psalm refers to Messiah. Messiah will therefore be raised from the dead. And He concludes in verse 32, this Jesus God raised up again then. The Old Testament then, in Psalm 16, predicted the resurrection of the Messiah. And the resurrection of Jesus Christ shows that Psalm 16 was



true, was accurate. The resurrection of Christ supports the accuracy, the inspiration, the veracity, the authenticity of the Word of God. That's Peter.

Let's go to Paul, turn over to Acts 13. Acts chapter 13. Some of this, for some of you, is a glorious review. You just keep taking your notes and get your hip waiters on because it's gonna get deep. We're gonna be in tall cotton before this is over with. Acts 13. Now, Paul is the preacher, not Peter. Paul, in typical apostolic fashion, consistent with Peter, is preaching on the resurrection, of course, the heart of the Christian faith. In Acts 13, I want you to notice, go to verse 30. Acts 13, Let's pick it up in 29. ***"And when they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, Jesus, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him up from the dead;... Okay, Paul is talking about the resurrection. Keep going. ...and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. And we preach to you the good news of, get this, the promise made to the fathers,...*** There it is, right there in black and white. This was predicted. Who are the fathers? This is the Jewish patriarchs. This is the Jewish prophets of old. This was the promise that was made to them. The Old Testament saints were told about the good news. Now, when He says there in verse 33 ***...that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus,...*** now Paul goes on. He's gonna quote another psalm for you. Peter did Psalm 16. Paul's gonna hit that too. But Paul hits Psalm 2, ***...as it is also written in the second psalm,...*** It can't get any clearer than that. ***'THOU ART MY SON. TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE.'*** Verse 34, ***"And as for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no more to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY AND SURE BLESSINGS OF DAVID.'*** That's a quote out of Isaiah 55:3, where David is promised these holy and sure blessings of Messiah through his loins, of a kingdom, okay? And so the prophetic, this is also a prophecy that relates to the Messiah. So when the psalmist had



said that, when in Psalm 2, it was not written by David. We don't know who authored Psalm two. But when the psalmist said that, he was predicting that Jesus would be raised from the dead. Verse 34, ***“And as for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no more to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: ‘I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY and SURE blessings OF DAVID.’*** Again, a prophecy from Isaiah 55:3. And then He says this, look at verse 35. ***“Therefore He also says in another Psalm, now He's going back to Psalm 16, that Peter was quoting, ‘Thou wilt not allow thy Holy One to undergo decay.’ For David, after He had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay; But He whom God raised did not undergo decay;*** The best commentary on the scriptures are the scriptures themselves. It's telling you exactly that those Psalms were prophetic.

So Paul uses three Old Testament passages. Isaiah 55:3, Psalm 2, Psalm 16. Peter uses two of them, Psalm 2, Psalm 16, to show you that the resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament. And, by the way, that's just the three they're grabbing in these particular sermons. It's all through the Old Testament, the resurrection and a bodily resurrection and a belief in a resurrection. The Old Testament saints believed in a resurrection. If you don't believe that, take a look sometime at Job 19. He says, though my flesh fall away, I know that in my skin, in my flesh, one day I will see Him. That can't happen, Job, unless you die and are raised again. Genesis 22, Abraham, in the slaying of Isaac, God accounted for him, reckoned it to him as righteousness because He believed even God could raise one from the dead. You see that flavor of the resurrection even in those key passages.

Turn over to Acts 26. Acts 26. And in case you're wondering, I'm building to a point here, okay? Acts 26:22-27. I need to get there myself. Verse 22 through 27. And Paul, again, what's He saying? Verse 22, ***“And so, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying***



**both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place;...**" There it is in black and white, what the prophets and Moses said was gonna take place. Well, what did they say, Paul? What did Moses say even back in the Pentateuch? **...that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.**" All the way back in the law and the prophets and the Hagiographa, the holy writings, the Psalms, we see this, okay? It's prophesied that it was talked about. Listen to John 2. Matter of fact, turn to John 2. Again, I'm just gonna let you see every one with the eye gate every time. I don't care how long it takes. If it takes three weeks, we're gonna go through this because we're coming to something that in my humble opinion, blessed my soul so much and that I dare say there won't be a handful of churches, sad to say, where you'll ever have this truth explained to you and that is really, really sad how far at least the church in the West has sunk. We'll get there. John chapter 2, though. John 2:19. This one we don't think about as prophecy like we should. John chapter 2:19. Let's pick it up at verse 18. **The Jews**, and He's referring to the Jewish leaders there, **therefore answered and said to Him, "What sign do you show to us, seeing that You do these things?"** He has just started his ministry, come in and turned over to money changers temples and driven people out with a whip and so forth and let the doves and the lambs and everything go, all that and the money's gone everywhere. He does it again at the end of his ministry, but He's just started his public ministry and done that. What sign do you show us that you have the authority to walk into the temple and do this? Here's His response, verse 19. **Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."** Stop right there. We don't look at this. That's Jesus speaking on the pages of scripture. That's a prophecy. He is speaking the future. It isn't gonna happen, what He's talking about, for three years from this point, okay? So that's prophecy that's recorded



in the gospel of John, which is scripture, all right? That John, of course, writes at a later date under the auspices of the Holy Spirit, but it's Jesus' words. He's speaking prophecy at this point in time. He's speaking the truth and He isn't just saying the truth now, He's also talking about something that's gonna happen in the future, so it's prophecy in both meanings of the term. ***Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."*** ***The Jews, therefore,*** (and again, we're talking about the leaders here) ***said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple and will you raise it up in three days?"*** Verse 21, ***But He was speaking of the temple of His body. When, therefore, He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this and they, what? believed the scriptures,*** that's the Old Testament scripture that was already written, ***and the word,*** that was the scriptures which Jesus was speaking that John didn't write for another 40 or 50 years, ***and the word which Jesus had spoken.*** They believe the written word and they believe what the living word had said. It authenticates the resurrection, authenticates the prophecies of the Old Testament scriptures and it authenticates the prophecies from the mouth of Jesus Christ Himself.

You don't have to go there, but you're familiar in Luke 24 on that first resurrection Sunday, Jesus is walking on the road to Emmaus with his disciples and they're all forlorn and cast down and they're turning to him saying, you're the only guy in Jerusalem who doesn't know what's happened here, how the Jesus Christ was crucified and the rulers did this and the Roman soldiers did that and on and on and on and on and on. And what's it say? Jesus, it says in verse 25, quote, ***"O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in... what? ...all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ,*** Messiah Himself at the time He hadn't disclosed himself to them, ***...to suffer these things..."*** What things? Scourging, crucifixion, death, burial. Wasn't it ***necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to***



**enter into His glory?"** How could that happen? The resurrection. And what does He do? It says, and did our heart, they say later, did our hearts not burn within us as He explained Himself to us and explained these things, it says, all throughout the scripture. The word of God prophesies all this. The word of God pictures a dead and then a risen Messiah all over the Old Testament. Every time a lamb was sacrificed, it pictured the dying of the Christ. And every time there's a passage that talks about the Christ ruling and reigning and returning for His people and so forth, it's talking about a living Messiah. The Old Testament talks about a dead Messiah and a living Messiah, a dying Messiah and a living Messiah. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 nails it. Paul says, ***I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures,...*** Don't miss this. When he's writing 1 Corinthians 15, the only scriptures that exist is the Old Covenant for the most part. So what? The resurrection of Jesus, we go on and on and on. The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves the authenticity, the veracity, the accuracy and the inspiration of the Word of God. Why? Because the word of God prophesied it would happen and lo and behold, it happened exactly as for centuries and centuries it was prophesied.

Second thing, that the resurrection is key to. **Second thing, that the resurrection is inextricably linked to, and an obvious one, but no greater proof exists for the deity of Jesus Christ than this one, than the resurrection.** Why? Because there's no greater proof of the divine nature of Jesus Christ than His rising from the dead. The most monumental thing that He did to verify that He was God was to be raised from the dead because only God can give life. God is the author of life. Only God can conquer death. You know, if you look through the New Testament, there are many, many testimonies to the deity of Christ. Some are most amazing, some that you would probably expect.



One of the amazing ones I always found was in Mark 5:6-7, the demons affirm the deity of Christ. They come up to Him and say, ***"What do I have to do with You, Jesus, Son of the most High God?..."*** They declare Christ as God in human form. I love the blind man in John 9. He's one of my all-time favorite figures in history. I can't wait to talk to him someday in glory. I'll have to stand in a long line, I know. But the blind man that is healed, He gets kicked out of the temple. You know, he says, you know what's the funny thing? This guy healed my eyes and you don't know where He's from. Well, they flipped out at that. They kick him out of the temple. It says later on that Jesus goes and seeks him out and finds him. And what's He say? ***"Do you believe..., this is John 9:35-38, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "And who is He, Lord, that I might believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and He is the one talking with you."*** And what's his response? He says, ***"Lord, I believe."*** And it says He worshiped him. The rest of the people said, we don't know where He's from. This guy worships him, clearly, He's deity.

The disciples all testified to the deity of Christ. Who would have been say that I am, Peter? Well, thou art the Christ, the son of the living God. And there's life in no other. Thomas wasn't there on that first resurrection eve. He's there a week later. Doubting Thomas, remember the loving pessimist Thomas. Hey Thomas, stick your hands right here. He didn't do it, he just falls down on his face and says, my Lord and my God. He testifies to Jesus being God. What's Nathaniel say? Thou art the son of God. What's Matthew say? God with us. What's Mark say? He is Christ, the Son of God. What's Luke say? He is the Son of God. All the New Testament writers say it. What's the John the Baptist say? I give testimony that He is the Christ. What's Martha, the sister of Lazarus and Mary say? I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God and who comes in as the light of the world. The Roman soldier at the cross, what's he say? Of a truth. This was the Son of God. It doesn't get any better than that. Of course,



Jesus Himself constantly saying, I and the father are one. If you have seen Me, you've seen the Father. What's the matter with you, Philip? Duh, all the way through. But as powerful as those testimonies are, they are not the greatest testimony to the deity of Jesus Christ.

The greatest testimony to the deity of Jesus Christ we looked at when we first started studying the book of Romans. Turn to Romans 1. The book of Romans 1. And we're going to transition in a moment to where I'm so thankful I'm gonna have the time, I think, to get to because I'm really gonna make you think about something in a minute. Romans 1, what's it say? You have the testimony of all these individuals that I just gave you to the deity of Christ. None of them is as potent as the testimony of one other individual. Well, who's that? Look at Romans 1:1. ***Paul, a bond servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for,*** what? The gospel, the good news, ***the gospel of God, which He, God, promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy scriptures,...*** There we are again. About what? ***...concerning His son...*** We're gonna come back to this, this is critical. ***His son who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,*** here it comes, verse four. But ***who was declared the Son of God with power,*** how? ***...by the resurrection from the dead,...*** how? ***...according to the Spirit*** (and that should be a capital 'S'. My 1976 version of the NASB has a small S because there were no capitals in the Greek. Your newer version of the NASB will have a capital S in it because I checked it out and it should be. It's talking about God the Holy Spirit.) He was ***declared the son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.*** What's He saying there? The greatest statement to the deity of Christ was made by God the Father who through the power of the Spirit raised Christ from the dead. He says in Matthew 17 in His transfiguration where Jesus sort of pulls back his flesh and He unveils and some of his glory is seen, and Peter, James, and John are there. Typical Peter says, man, this is fantastic. Should I build three booths? Let's stay here on



this amount of transfiguration. And He has to be silenced by God the Father who breaks in and says, this is My beloved Son. Listen to Him. It doesn't get any better than God the Father saying it point blank. Acts 13:30, **God raised Him from the dead**. Romans 6:4, **...Christ was raised from the dead through the glory**, through the auspices, through the abilities, through the power, through the character qualities **of**, Almighty God, **the Father**. Ephesians 1:19-20 talks about the surpassing greatness of God's power. How great is God the Father's power? Quote, **He brought about in the resurrection of Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him, Christ, at His right hand**. Close quote. God is the one who raised Christ, and He did it to give testimony to Christ's deity. The resurrection of Christ confirms the accuracy, the inspiration, the authenticity of the Word of God. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, we could go on and on and on, confirms the deity of Christ, essential to the Christian faith.

Now, there's something even more unbelievably amazing. I'm gonna give you the principle, and then we're gonna look at it. We've glanced at a few things that you need to see, but I'm gonna take you back to them. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, if you're keeping score, this is **point three, the resurrection of Jesus Christ brings to full bloom, brings to full fruition, if you will, the role of the second person of the Trinity, Jesus, as the Son of God, and all that that means**. Let me say that again. The resurrection of Christ brings to full fruition the role that the second person of the Trinity agreed in eternity past to play as the Son of God. Let me set this up for you. I'm not talking heresy here now. This is a comment I made to you, Bob. I wanna make sure you're with me. Three persons in one God, one God, not three gods, one God. Three persons in one God, I don't understand it. I don't either. Shake hands with a brother elk, I don't get it either. Three persons in one God, co-equal, co-powerful, co-eternal. Begotten, not made, et cetera, or Jesus was begotten, not made, but always existing, always was, always will be. Jesus is God, Holy Spirit's God, Father's God. We believe that, the



scriptures teach that, we all get that, but existing at one point in time, the only way I know to do this is just talk to you. Existing way back in eternity past, before His incarnation, the second person of the Trinity was not the son of God. He was the second person of the Trinity. He was God, if you will. He didn't have, until the first Christmas, until the incarnation, Philippians 2, until He took on flesh. He didn't have a fleshly body, okay? This is one of the great mysteries of the scriptures. What's it say? He humbles Himself and thought it not robbery to be equal with God as Philippians 2, and He became found in fashion as a man, taking on the form of a bond slave, obedience to the Father, even unto death, and so forth. At Christmas, at the incarnation, Christ takes on human form, now He's born of a virgin, so He doesn't have that stain of original sin. So He's perfect flesh, perfect humanity, if you will, 100% perfect man, 100% perfect God, okay? But He wasn't always 100% man/100% God. He was 100% God always. But then He becomes 100% God/100% man, and He takes on humanity. Okay, well, okay, what's the point? Well, I got a point here, and we're gonna go to it. He could not in His human fleshly body have been raised and ascend unto the presence of the Father if the sin that was laid on Him stayed on Him.

I'm gonna do this a whole different way. The Lord, I think, just gave it to me. Turn over to Psalm 2, go back to Psalm 2. I'm just gonna let you see it with your own eyes, and I'm gonna walk you through it, and I think I can pull it off in 15 minutes here that we have left. Psalm 2, Psalm 2, second chapter of the book of Psalms. The resurrection of Jesus Christ again brings to full bloom, full fruition, full completion, the Sonship of the second person of the Trinity. Maybe that's a better way to say it. It brings to full fruition, full accomplishment, everything that is involved in the Sonship of the second person of the Trinity. Jesus, I'm just gonna read my handwritten notes. Jesus the Son did not have, did not take on and demonstrate the role of the Son of God for all eternity. He did it at a point in time. I've already talked about that.



Always God, never needed to be spiritually born again because He was always perfect spiritually. He had a perfect, He was perfect in the flesh, not sinful physically, but He dies, and He does have to be resurrected, and you'll see why. In Psalm 2:7, let's just walk through it and maybe I'll put a bow on it at the end. And if you don't get it all, don't panic. I'll put some of this in the pastor's letter this week so you got it in print, and then I'll repeat it again next week, I'm sure. But verse seven, ***I will surely tell***, this is the psalmist, we don't know who, ***surely tell of the decree of the LORD; He***, the Father, ***said to Me***, Christ, ***Thou art my Son***. Now, 'today', that's a time word. That's a point in time. ***Today, I have begotten Thee***. I was so thrilled to this. 46 years ago, today. This is why you need to put notes in your Bible. 46 years ago today, April the 20th, 1979, in the basement of the college church on the campus of Wheaton University. I had no clue, I was such a dope. I'm sitting across the table, I've been a believer less than four years, from Ralph Kuyper, 86-year-old Ralph Kuyper, a giant of the faith, I had no clue. He sat across the table from me on a napkin and outlined and penned this truth from Psalm 2 during a break on the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology. And He explained to me, and of course, like an idiot, I lost the napkin. Can't believe it. ***Today, I have begotten thee***. Now, some will say that that is a prophecy on the virgin birth of Christ. And it is. How do you know? He says, the Lord Father says to me, today, you're My Son. We read Romans 1:3, and what did it say? He was the Son of God, John, get it right. He was the Son of God, here you go, ***concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh***. He was a son of David according to the flesh. We know from Luke 1:33-36, as the angel declares to Mary, verse 34, ***And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I'm a virgin?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason, the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God."*** He was never called the son of God until He



took on flesh. He's the son of David. And in that sense, the son of God, according to the flesh, He's the son of God according to the flesh because a virgin conceives as a result of the working of the Holy Spirit of God in her womb, okay? And so, Psalm 2:7 says, ***I will surely tell the decree of the Lord: He said to me, 'Thou art my son. Today I have begotten Thee...'*** However, it's also not just a prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ. We just saw a moment ago, it's a prophecy of the resurrection of the physical body of Christ. Peter refers to it, Paul refers to it, Paul again in Acts refers to it, meaning what? It's a prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ and it is a prophecy of the resurrection of Christ as well. Romans 1:4, absolutely nails it. What's Romans 1:4 say? Romans 1:3, ***concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh***, verse 4 of Romans 1, ***who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord***. Flip over to Hebrews 1, Hebrews 1, and then I'm gonna put a bow on this for you, I hope. Pray for me, pray for me that I make it clear, pray for me that your heart's open and you see this because I can write about it this week and I can tell it next week but some people... just get it now if you can. Hebrews 1:3-5. I'll start at the beginning. ***God***, verse 1, ***after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son whom, He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He, Christ, is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of his Nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power***. By the way, you're sitting here able to read these words, you're taking the next breath, you're about to take because of that verse of scripture because He upholds all things. You and I are a part of the 'all things' He upholds by His power. ***When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become as much better than the angels as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels***



*did He ever say, "THOU ART MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE."* And again, now he's gonna quote 2 Samuel 7:14. *"I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?* All right, 2 Samuel 7:14 and following is a passage of scripture where David is dying and He talks about and prophesies how God has been so gracious and kind to him and how He's gonna enable him to build a temple for his name and it's gonna be my son Solomon and so forth. And Nathan prophesies there and says, and by the way, the Lord will be with your son Solomon and He'll chasten him when He goes astray, et cetera. But He says, there will be one to rule on your throne forever and ever and ever. And He's not talking about Solomon, obviously. He's talking about the Messiah to come.

Now, here's what I want you to see. Here's what I hope you get. Jesus Christ, all God, all man, okay? So what? So, we know from Habakkuk 1:7 that God, here we go, I got it. I'm dialed in, I got it. We know from Habakkuk 1:7 that God will have no evil in His presence. He will not allow sin, evil, wickedness in his presence. On the cross, Jesus, God, the second person of the Trinity who was named the Son of God when He took on flesh and as we just saw, ultimately when He's raised from the dead, He's declared with power by Almighty God to be God's Son. But, so what? That resurrection was necessary to complete His sonship. In what way? He came to the earth to save sinners. That's what He and the second person that God had agreed with the Father that they would do. His name shall be called Jesus, for He will save their people from their sins. You remember that, okay? That's exactly what God wanted. Christ accomplished it, but it was indispensable evidence that He had accomplished the work by His resurrection. How so? 2 Corinthians 5:21, He who knew no sin became sin for us. Isaiah 53, the iniquity of us all was laid on Him. Now think about this, He's on the cross, He's all God, but He's all man. He's fully human, He's taken on a human body. In some supernatural way, your sins and mine, the sins of the elect, if you will, have been laid on Him. He becomes sin, if you



will, in some mysterious way, on our behalf, right? Now, no sin can exist in the Father's presence. He takes the wrath for sin on the cross. He dies, He's buried. How do we know it worked? How do we know He made full atonement for the sins of the world? How do we know that it possibly could have worked? Because three days later, He's raised from the dead, and then He, what? He ascends into heaven, into the presence of God who can have no sin in His presence. If He had not fully atoned for sin, if He had not totally removed sin and paid for the, and took God's wrath for sin and paid our debt, if that sin was still attenuated to Him, if you will, if He was still bearing it because it didn't work, He would have never been raised and allowed to be in the presence of God the Father. That's why this is so critical. He's bodily, He's in heaven now with a fleshly body forever. He'll have a fleshly body. In some way, His form was changed forever when He took on that fleshly body.

Now, oh, you gotta go to Romans 4:25. I am gonna, 4:25. I'm gonna draw it to a close. I got two minutes, and I think it's gonna work. And if you stay over an extra minute, send your emails to Brian Lockard. Okay. Here's what I wrote out. I just wanna read it so I don't mess it up. He could not in His human fleshly body have been raised and ascend to the presence of God the Father if the sin that was laid upon Him, if any of the sin that He bore on our behalf had not been sufficiently removed from our account and from His fleshly body, if you will, as well by His death on the cross as our sinless human substitute. Now, look at Romans 4:25. Oh, man, I love this. Verse 25. **He**, Christ, **who was delivered up because of our transgressions,...** that's a juridical term, Ralph Kuyper explained to me. God bless you, Ralph Kuyper, 46 years ago today. It means handed over, executed, crucified, buried. He was delivered up because of our transgressions, for our sin. Now, get this. **...and was raised**, I don't care what your translations say, it should say, **because of our justification**.



Get this. Here's what I've wanted to get. If you're sleepy and you're hungry, put it off, wake up. Because of our justification. He wasn't raised from the dead **for** our justification. No, no, no, no, no. Not for our justification. We didn't get justified by His resurrection. No. We were justified by His shed blood on the cross that paid the penalty for our sin. The greatest words ever to come across the lips of Jesus, I think, from His perspective and certainly from mine, greatest words He ever said. He said on the cross, ***it is finished. It is finished.*** What's finished? I've paid it all. I've paid it all. You can now be declared righteous. So what's He saying here? Here's what it says. He was delivered over or our transgressions and it's finished. He paid it all. Jesus paid it all. In the words of Philip Bliss, full atonement, yes. Can it be? Yes, hallelujah, what a savior. He paid it all. And then He was raised, not to justify us. We were already justified because He paid it all. He was raised because of our justification. He was raised because of our justification. Because He paid it all. Because He removed sin from you and all the sin He bore. Therefore, God could declare Him as having completed the work by raising Him and allowing Him to ultimately ascend back into the presence of Almighty God. His death bought us full justification before God the Father and because of that, because it worked, if you will, He was raised. He was never raised for our justification. He died for our justification. He was raised because God the Father saw his death as sufficient for our sin. And God the Father raised him in his fleshly body. See, that's the key point. His body of flesh was raised. He accepted Jesus, spirit and body, into the Father's presence. And it brings to full fruition his Sonship. Why?

Because, number one, it demonstrates that He had made full atonement, we get to see it. And, what? He now is in heaven. Did you ever ask yourself, why does He have to keep beseeching God? He is playing the role that He didn't have in eternity past. He's playing the role, if you will, pardon the expression 'playing', fulfilling the role, that He never took on until His virgin



birth, His incarnation, physically, Son of God, and that He now plays out spiritually as the Son of God, if you will, in heaven, interceding at the throne of the Father for grace for you and me. So that our salvation, justification, and the perseverance, preservation of the saints, our salvation/sanctification, will ultimately work, be completed to ultimate glorification. Why? Because the same God who paid the penalty for your sins and died for them now prays God's grace on your life, and the Father always answers the Son's prayers, and Jesus is praying now that you will understand this truth. Jesus is praying now that if you don't know Christ as Lord and Savior, you follow not this teaching, you follow this command. It's a command. Repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ so that you may be saved. That is the role that the second person of the Trinity is playing right now in full bloom of His sonship.

There is so much more to this. Lord willing, we'll get a chance to dive in some more this next week. For now, as Brian comes to lead us, let's pray. Father, thank You for this blessed truth and the patience of these dear souls as I've gone five minutes over my allotted time. But Father, as we bring this service to conclusion, we're aware of the fact that this is not just a message, this is a command. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him. Either we obey it, Lord, and respond in the faith of Christ, give Him our lives, ask Him to save us from our sins, take us to heaven, or we reject it and disobey, and are appointed a place with Judas and the other damned and the wicked. Lord, I pray that You and the person of the Holy Spirit would work in every life here present, every life within the sound of my voice, every life that might hear this someday on some form of medium. And certainly, Father, in the hearts and souls of people that my wife and I so dearly love that they would all come to a saving knowledge of Christ. And maybe it would be on this Resurrection Sunday. We ask it all, thank You for it all, thank You for the privilege of preaching it all in the



matchless name of the risen Savior, in the matchless name of Jesus the Christ. Amen and  
amen.