

April 21, 2019

The Doctrine of the Resurrection! **1 Corinthians 15:12-34**

The gospel of the New Testament, the message of the Christian church from the beginning, is one that is based on the literal physical resurrection of the Son of God from the grave

It is based on the empty tomb, on the literal historical fact of Christ risen in the body from the dead

Today...

1. The physical resurrection proves Jesus is the eternal Son of God
2. It proves that He was in fact sent into the world by the Lord to do a certain work
3. It proves Jesus has conquered every enemy that was opposed to Him, to God, and to us
4. His resurrection forces us to ask the question, how am I to live in this world

1 Corinthians 15:29-32 (ESV) Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? 30 Why are we in danger every hour? 31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

And this is a critical point, as the apostle here emphasizes, from the practical standpoint
Its importance emerges as we see the effect of wrong doctrine upon our daily life and living
Do you notice his argument?

You cannot separate these things; doctrine and conduct are indissolubly linked

Why must we believe in the New Testament doctrine of the literal physical resurrection?

1. The first is that it is the one thing, above everything else, which really proves that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son of God

Romans 1:4 (ESV) And was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. It proves that He was in fact sent into the world by the Lord to do a certain work

And here, by the resurrection, He proves that He has done the work and completed it

Romans 4:25 (ESV) Who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

If the Lord Jesus Christ had not literally risen physically from the grave, we could never be certain that He had ever really finished the work

3. Not only that but the resurrection proved that He has conquered every enemy that was opposed to Him, to God, and to us

In light of His resurrection I have full assurance my sins are forgiven

Romans 8:1 (ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV) And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

If it is not a fact that Christ literally rose from the grave, then we are still guilty before God

Our punishment has not been borne, our sins have not been dealt with, we are yet in your sins

4. But the question still remains, "how am I to live in this world?"

You have given me this great doctrine of the resurrection but I am still confronted by the world, the flesh, and the devil; how am I deal with evil and the flesh and the devil?

My problem is how do I live, how do I become holy, how do I advance in grace and in the knowledge of God, how do I live for God's glory, being radically obedient to His commands, love Him with all my heart and work in His church to advance His Kingdom?

1 Corinthians 15:19 (ESV) If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Let me summarize all this. "If we are concerned about our life in this world, and the fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil, the first thing we must do," says the apostle, "is to take an overall look at this great doctrine of the resurrection of our Lord"...The Lord Jesus Christ, according to this teaching, came into the world because of this problem of sin and evil: that is the whole meaning of the Incarnation

So not only is He the first fruit of those resurrected but because He has overcome the evil one so may we

How is all you are saying really going to help me?"

1 Corinthians 15:23-25 (ESV) But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

Now this means that the Lord Jesus Christ is still continuing the fight

Having ascended up into heaven, He has led captivity captive and is seated on the right hand of God's throne with authority and power

So what are we taught by the resurrection is that Christ is still there bringing His own purpose to pass
But this is the thing that is certain: as certainly as Christ rose triumphant over the grave, He is reigning at this moment, and He will reign until the time comes for Him to return

Now, we must start with that

Our tendency is to be frightened by the devil and by temptation and the power and the forces of evil

Sometimes we are hopeless

But here is what we must do

Look away from yourself for a moment

Look at Him, He has been victorious and He is reigning

He is coming

He rules, and He is finally going to rout His enemies and end it all

That is the general picture

Next week we will look at how this relates to our living a victorious life for our sanctification and His glory