

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Mark 16: 1-7

By Pastor Abri Brancken, 1 Apr 2018

INTRODUCTION

- Does the resurrection of Christ matter?
- Does it truly make a difference whether Jesus was raised from the dead or not?
- What is the Gospel and is there a Gospel without the resurrection?
- How does the resurrection of Jesus affect our lives today?

DOES THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST MATTER?

Does the resurrection of Christ matter? Yes! The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of Christianity.

If you remove the resurrection the Gospel is dead. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, we cannot be born again to a living hope and we cannot be raised in a glorified body to spend eternity with God.

1 Peter 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

If we don't preach the resurrection we are not preaching the gospel. (Gospel means "Good News")

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that **he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,

The gospel is this:

1. Jesus died for our sins
2. He was buried
3. He rose again on the third day

The resurrection proves that Jesus is who He said he is. He is God. The tomb of Jesus is not famous for what it contains, but for what it does not contain.

2 Timothy 2:8

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. according to my gospel...

THE EMPTY TOMB DISCOVERED

Mark 16:1-7

"When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed."

WITNESSES TO THE RESURRECTION

There were many witnesses to Jesus' resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:5-7

and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles...

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO BE RAISED TO LIFE?

The High Priest in the Tabernacle or Temple appeared before God and offered the blood of animals for expiation on the Day of Atonement. The blood of an animal had to flow. The tabernacle was a picture, a copy of the true tabernacle that is in heaven. That is why God gave Moses strict order on how to build the tabernacle in order to represent heavens reality on earth. The sacrifice made on the Day of Atonement was a picture of the perfect sacrifice that would one day be brought, Jesus. Because it is impossible for the blood of animals to take away sin (Heb. 10:4), Christ appeared with his own blood to procure pardon for us.

Jesus is our High Priest and after His resurrection He Himself sprinkled His own blood on the true mercy seat in heaven—the throne of grace. (Hebrews 9:23–26) Interestingly, the number of times that the Old Testament high priest had to sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat—seven—speaks of Jesus' perfect sacrifice. And because His sacrifice is perfect, and He is perfect, we who are in Christ have perfect standing forever before God!

Jesus had to be raised back to life in order to present His own blood on the mercy seat in order to complete the 'once and for all' sacrifice. Only Jesus could present his blood in the Most Holy Place. If He remained dead, the sacrifice was half completed. There is a two-step process: Firstly, blood had to flow and then secondly, that blood had to be presented before God by sprinkling it on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies.

Hebrews 9:12, 22-28

12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. 26 Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Jesus could not offer His blood in heaven unless He rose again. His death was not sufficient, because His blood was not offered according to the requirements for the offerings for the forgiveness of sins. He had to sprinkle His blood on the mercy seat. Often, we focus mainly on the fact that Jesus died for us, forgetting that He rose. His death is powerless without His resurrection. If there is no resurrection, then the crucifixion of Christ didn't achieve anything for us, and we are still in our sins.

1 Cor 15:14-15

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

HOW DOES THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS AFFECT OUR LIVES TODAY?

The good news is that death is not the end. Everyone will receive a new body. All people will be resurrected from the dead, some to eternal life and some to eternal damnation.

John 6:40

"For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

Luke 14:14

And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Acts 24:15

Having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of

an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

2 Corinthians 4:14

because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with (by - KJV) Jesus and present us with you to himself.

CONCLUSION

The power in the resurrection of Jesus Christ will also raise us up to everlasting life. If He was not raised to life, we could not be raised to life. We have a wonderful future to look forward to. Without the resurrection, our faith is meaningless.