

The Resurrection Effect

Having just celebrated Easter, it might seem curious to preach what amounts to another Easter message. However, it is actually *more* than appropriate to preach about the Resurrection *especially* because it is after Easter. We say Easter because it became part of our English vocabulary long ago, but many Christians emphasize the significance of the day by using the term *Resurrection Day*. *Resurrection Day* is more specific and captures the idea of what is important about our celebration. Why it is appropriate to preach about the Resurrection *especially* after Resurrection Day is because you don't want to relegate the emphasis of the Resurrection to just one special day in the year.

A short list of major doctrines would include such things as the Trinity, the Inerrancy of the Bible, the Grace of God, the Second Coming of Christ, and the Substitutionary Atonement of Christ. others. The doctrine of the Resurrection is such a key doctrine that we would do well to *also* be very conscious of its effect on our Christian life. Let me share with you just a few of the ways, today, of how significant the teaching of the Resurrection is.

1. The teaching of the Resurrection appears all over the Bible.
 - The Gospels lead up to and end with the Resurrection
 - The book of Acts starts off with the Resurrection and then Peter preaches about the Resurrection in ch. 2,3,5,10.
 - Steven gave witness to the resurrected Christ in Acts 6 and 7.
 - Paul witnessed the resurrected Christ in Acts 9.
 - Paul preached the Resurrection in Antioch in Acts 13, Thessalonica and Athens (where they thought he was crazy for teaching the

Resurrection) in ch. 17, got thrown in jail for preaching the Resurrection in ch. 21-23, was put on trial for preaching the Resurrection in ch. 24, and was sent to Rome on appeal for preaching the Resurrection in ch. 25,26.

- Rom 1,3,4,6,7 declare the Resurrection and the first half of the book culminates in a great teaching of the Resurrection ch. 8, and is a key concept in ch. 10,11,14.
- 1Cor 15 is the great chapter on the Resurrection.
- 2Cor 4,5, Gal 4, Php 4, and Col 1 teach the Resurrection.
- Eph 1, 2Pet 3 powerfully teach the Resurrection.
- 1 and 2Thess are all about the Resurrection at the coming of Christ.
- 1Tim 3:15 is one of the great teachings on the Resurrection.
- In 2Tim 2 Paul declares he was put in jail for the preaching of the Resurrection.
- In Titus 2 Paul calls the Resurrection "the blessed hope."
- All of Hebrews rests on the teaching of the Resurrection.
- James concludes with the teaching of the Resurrection.
- 1Pet 1,3,5 teach the Resurrection.
- The Resurrection is prominent in and the foundation of the book of The Revelation. In fact the *Revelation* itself refers to the appearing of the resurrected Christ.

Those are just the obvious places in the New Testament. Time will not permit us to examine the Old Testament where the Resurrection is taught in symbol as well as Scripture.

2. We celebrate Easter *every* Sunday.

Not only does the Resurrection appear all over the Bible, but every

Sunday is Easter.

The wave offering of wheat before God was made by the priest as a symbol of the first fruits on the day Jesus, Who is the first resurrection fruit, was raised. This was on Sunday.

Pentecost, the *Feast* of Firstfruits, was always on Sunday. This was also when the church was empowered for its first mission.

You don't see the Sabbath recognized again in the New Testament except when preaching to the Jews.

John received the book of The Revelation on Sunday, the Lord's Day:

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

The disciples met on the first day of the week to have the Lord's supper:

Acts 20:7 And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

Paul taught the Corinthians to make their tithe and offering collections on the first day:

1Cor 16:2 Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

The only thing that was significant about the first day of the week was that Jesus had been raised on that day and all things associated with the resurrected Christ occurred on Sunday. *Every* Sunday, then, is a reminder of the Resurrection. We not only celebrate the Resurrection on *Easter* or *Resurrection* Sunday, but *every* Sunday.

3. It is by the resurrection that we are

made righteous.

I often point out how the blood of Christ sacrificed on the cross paid the penalty for our sins, but that is not the end of the process of salvation. If there had been no resurrection of Christ there would be no victory of Christ *over* death. Christ died for *all* the world, but not all the world is saved. They are just paid for.

2Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

Whether or not they ask to have the payment applied is up to them.

Rom 5:15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which* is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

We so often point out that it is not by works that we are saved, but only by the sacrificial work of Christ. We don't pay as much attention to the significant part that the resurrection plays in our salvation.

Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

To be justified means to be made righteous and to be perfected. Our spirit is made righteous and perfect the moment we are saved and the process is completed at the resurrection when our body is made perfect.

4. The Resurrection sets Christianity apart from all other religions.

Absolutely no other religion in the world has ever conceived of the idea of a resurrection. They might speak of an afterlife, or some absorption into a world

soul...but they never considered a resurrection. When Paul taught this in Athens, they thought he was crazy.

Acts 17:18-21,31-32 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

19And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, *is*?

20For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

21(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

31Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

32And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*.

Not just world religions, but cults, today, still struggle over the Resurrection, but this was taught by revelation from the beginning. We find this in Job, which many understand to have been written even before Moses wrote Genesis.

Job 19:23-27 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!

24That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for

ever!

25For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:

26And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

5. The *whole* of God's creation will be affected by the Resurrection.

You should get the idea that the Resurrection is a major issue in our salvation, but it is actually even bigger than that. God's work of resurrection will be applied to *all* of His creation:

Rom 8:21-22 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

2Pet 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11*Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

12Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth,

wherein dwelleth righteousness.

6. We have a guarantee of the resurrection.

Possibly the best of all is that we are *guaranteed* the resurrection.

Eph 1:3-14 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: [**Because we are *in* Christ, we participate in *His* resurrection.**]

4According as he hath chosen us in him [**Because we are in the chosen one, we became chosen**] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Paul defined the adoption in Rom 8:

Rom 8:23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

Continuing in Eph 1:10,

10That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

11In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in

Christ.

13In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: [**We became in Christ the moment we trusted in Him.**] in whom also after that ye believed, ye **were sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise,

14Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit

7. The resurrection power fuels us.

Our modern prosperity since the beginning of the 20th century has been directly tied to the abundant growth of energy. Today, there are multitudinous issues connected to the production and supply of energy. Spiritually, this is even more so for the believer. We are empowered by the resurrection that fuels us.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Rom 6:1-11 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

3Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection:

6Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 7:24-25 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

These are just a smattering of the verses that speak of the power available to us. That power is the power of the resurrection in us. You don't have to wait until Jesus returns in the Rapture. You can enjoy the power of the resurrection now!

Every day we should be revived in the newness of the resurrection life. After every failure *or* success, we need the refreshing power of the resurrection. When you pray for me before I get up to preach, it is that power of the resurrection that fuels me to deliver God's Word.

When we are downtrodden from the

burden of sin or bad circumstances, we need to press forward in the power of the resurrection.

Heb 12:12-13 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;
13And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

It has been commonly said, when someone asks you how you are doing don't say, "Okay...under the circumstances." Don't live *under* your circumstances, live *above* your circumstances. Also, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade! As cliché as these might be, the truth is that it is by the resurrection power that all things work together for the good:

Rom 8:26-28 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
27And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God.
28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

8. Live the Resurrection.

We are certainly able to go beyond seven points in this sermon, but seven is the number of perfection so we might stop here. But there should really be an eighth point because eight is the number of salvation, especially with Jesus being raised on the eighth day.

All of this power is only there for those who belong to God through the

resurrection of Christ. And then all of this power is good if you actually use it. Don't put stipulations on what you will do for God, but be ready for God to empower you in the work you might be struggling in. There might be those things that you actually can't do, and that's okay. But when you *do* step out on faith, don't worry whether the power will be there or not. That power will surprise you and sustain you. What effect does the Resurrection have on you?

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2. We celebrate Easter *every* Sunday. Rev 1:10, Acts 20:7, 1Cor 16:2
3. It is by the resurrection that we are made righteous. 2Cor 5:14, Rom 5:15, Rom 4:25
4. The Resurrection sets Christianity apart from all other religions. Acts 17:18-21,31-32, Job 19:23-27
5. The whole of God's creation will be affected by the resurrection. Rom 8:21-22, 2Pet 3:10-13
6. We have a guarantee of the resurrection. Eph 1:3-14, Rom 8:23
7. The resurrection power fuels us. 2Cor 5:17, Rom 6:3-11, Rom 7:24-25, Heb 12:12-13, Rom 8:26-28
8. Live the Resurrection.