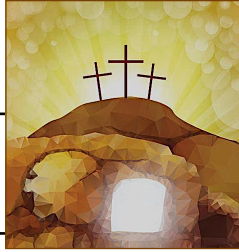


Why the Resurrection Is a BIG Deal



“But God raised him from the dead! 31 And over a period of many days he appeared to those who had gone with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to the people of Israel....” Acts 13:30 NLT

- What difference does the resurrection of Jesus Christ make to our lives today?

It is surprising to see how many times the resurrection of Jesus Christ is mentioned in the book of Acts. It was much more important to the early Christians in the first century than it seems to be today in the 21st century. A scan through the book of Acts shows that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was the central focus of the early Christian’s conversation, witness and mission in life. Compare Acts 1:21-22; 2:23-24, 29-33; 3:13-15; 4:1-2, 10, 33; 5:29-32; 10:39-43; 13:30-39; 17:18, 30-31.

Why do we think so little about the resurrection when it was the major topic of conversation among the first century Christians? Perhaps we have never thought through the ramifications of the resurrection. Maybe no one has ever shown us why the resurrection matters. Maybe we have never been taught why the resurrection is a big deal.

Central Lesson

The Resurrection is the most important event in human history and is PROOF that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.

WHY the Resurrection Matters to Your Life

1. It proves that Jesus was more than a carpenter—but **GOD** in human flesh (Acts 2:22-24).

“22 People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. 23 But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. 24 But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.” Acts 2:22-24 NLT

Jesus is both fully man & fully God. He is the God-man (cf. John 1:1&14). In the first century, people viewed Jesus as a man, as a mere carpenter, until they witnessed his miracles & supernatural power. After this they began to wonder about his divine identity. Many became certain that he was the Messiah, the Son of God, and the Savior of the World (cf. John 20:30-31).

2. It distinguishes true Biblical **CHRISTIANITY** from all other world **RELIGIONS** & belief systems (Acts 13:30-39).

“30 But God raised him from the dead! 31 And over a period of many days he appeared to those who had gone with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are

now his witnesses to the people of Israel.... 34 For God had promised to raise him from the dead, not leaving him to rot in the grave.... 35 Another psalm explains it more fully: ‘You will not allow your Holy One to rot in the grave’.... 38 Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. 39 Everyone who believes in him is made right in God’s sight—something the law of Moses could never do.” Acts 13:30-39 NLT

No other religion of the world is based on the death & resurrection of its founder. Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, etc. are dead and still in their graves. The historic fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ separates Christianity from all other religions. Without the resurrection, Christianity is just another world religion. Because of the resurrection, it has no equal.

3. It proves that the **POWER** of God is unlimited & sufficient to handle any problem that you face.

“24 But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.” Acts 2:24 NLT

If God has the power to overcome death, then He has the power to overcome any problem we face. His power can change hearts, homes, relationships & any circumstance or problem.

4. It proves God’s **LOVE** for us.

“8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.... 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.” Romans 5:8,10 NLT

The death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ are proof of God’s love for us. Humanity has a sin problem. The penalty of sin is spiritual death and God’s judgment. The only solution is the shed blood of Christ. God loves us so deeply that He sent His Son to pay the penalty of sin & offer us God’s forgiveness & eternal life. The entire redemption plan of God—from Christ’s death to resurrection to ascension—is proof of God’s deep love for us (Cf. Rom. 5:8; John 3:16).

5. It proves that the message of the gospel is **TRUE** & relevant for your life (Acts 17:30-31).

“30 God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. 31 For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.” Acts 17:30-31 NLT

The resurrection proves that Jesus is God’s Son and that everything He said was true. The gospel is the only way we can be saved & made right with God. God proved the truthfulness of the gospel by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Central Lesson:

The Resurrection is the most important event in human history and is PROOF that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.

Have you received Him as your Savior? Are you living for Him everyday?

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.