

4.21.19 ~ Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

Read Mark 2:1-11... As Jesus is proclaiming the good news in a crowded room (**Mark 2:2-4**) four men carry in a paralytic but they can't get to Jesus through the crowd, so they go up the outside stairway to the roof; they dig through the thatch and earth roof, remove the roof tiles, and then lower the man to the room below.

It says (**Mark 2:5**), Jesus "seeing their faith said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" It was clear to everyone that the man's greatest need was to be able to walk, to be healed of his paralysis. But Jesus basically says, I have healed your spirit, by forgiving your sins.

This man has just received eternal life, yet he still can't walk.

The Pharisees (**Mark 2:6-7**), equate Jesus' statement about forgiving sins to blaspheming, for only God can forgive sins.

Many of the Jews living at that time, believed that diseases and afflictions were the result of one's own sin. And so, Jesus asks the Pharisees, (**Mark 2:9**) "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk?'"

Anyone could say, "your sins are forgiven," I mean, who could verify whether or not it had happened? But to say, "Get up... and walk" that miracle could be witnessed by all who were there.

By healing the paralytic, Jesus' claim to grant forgiveness was verified; and so there was spiritual healing, through the forgiveness of sins.

The emphasis here is not the healing of this man's body, but the healing of his spirit (**Mark 2:5, 10-11**).

How does this relate to the resurrection of Jesus?

What if we only had Christ's death, no resurrection? If you had been the paralytic in Mark 2, and Jesus said to you, "your sins are forgiven, really," there would be no way for you to know if that were true, until after you die and either enter into heaven or into hell.

But, if along with saying, "your sins are forgiven," Jesus said, "now, to prove that you are saved, and that I have authority to forgive sin, "I say to you get up and walk, you are healed," well, because you could now walk, you would also be sure that you had received forgiveness for your sins.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ sovereignly demonstrates and declares that Jesus, through His own shed blood on the cross, did in fact take our punishment for sins upon Himself, and therefore, we have been granted forgiveness and eternal life!

1Peter 3:18, "Christ died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit."

The biblical and historic record concurs, that Jesus of Nazareth died on a Friday afternoon and was placed in a tomb, but Sunday morning His body was missing!

Read Matthew 28:1-15... If Jesus' body was missing, either He did rise from the dead, as He repeatedly said He would, or someone took His body away, but who?

1. The Jewish Leaders didn't want Christ's body removed from the tomb; a missing body could be a resurrected body, that would look bad for the Religious Leaders; for this reason, they pressured Pilate to put a seal on the tomb and a Roman guard unit there to keep the body in the grave (**Matthew 27:62-65**), for Jesus had said (**v. 63**), "After three days I *am to* rise again."

2. The Roman Guards were stationed at the tomb to make sure Jesus' body stayed put; moving it or allowing it to be taken, was punishable by death; therefore, they made sure Christ's body remained in the tomb, at all costs, against all foes, but then, they had never faced one of God's mighty angels, like the one who rolled away the stone.

3. Jesus' Disciples wouldn't dare move His body and falsify His resurrection; for if they knew Jesus did not rise from the grave, they had no hope of eternal life, and it would have been better for them to quickly and quietly get out of town, change their names, and deny any prior relationship with Jesus of Nazareth.

Why would the Disciples continue to proclaim the risen Lord, if it were not true?

Why did the Jewish authorities bribe the Roman soldiers to spread the "stolen body" story if it were true?

Jesus told His disciples on several occasions, that He would be arrested, put to death, and on the third day He would rise from the grave. He told them He would return to the Father; but at a future time, He would come back to get all those who belong to Him (Christians) to be with Him in heaven, forever; all this is according to God's own sovereign plan and purpose.

Matthew 17:22-23... "And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day.' And they were deeply grieved."

Mark 8:31... "He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."

Luke 24:44-48... "Now He said to them, 'These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law

of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.' Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.' You are witnesses of these things."

See John 14:1-3... "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." **29**, "Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe."

After His resurrection, before ascending back into heaven, Jesus appeared to many of His followers, and we will look at those events this coming Wednesday night.

When you repent of your sins and trust in Jesus Christ's death on the cross to provide forgiveness for your sins, you receive salvation; and Christ's resurrection demonstrates God's sovereign power and authority over sin, death, and judgment, and is proof that you indeed have eternal life from God (cf. **Romans 10:9-10**).

The only reasonable explanation for the empty tomb is repeatedly given in Scripture: Jesus rose from the grave.

John 10:17-18, "I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

Christ's death provided forgiveness; His resurrection proclaimed and demonstrated that He alone provides eternal life.

See John 11:25-26, "Jesus said to [Martha], 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

See John 11:39-44... Going to the place where Lazarus was buried, Jesus said, "'Remove the stone.' Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?' So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, 'Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.' When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth.' The man who

had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'"

Jesus freed Lazarus from death, demonstrating what He had just said, "he who believes in Me will live even if he dies," for Lazarus belonged to the Lord.

See Romans 8:1, 38-39.

The resurrection is not just an event. It is a Person. **1John 5:11-13**, "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Jesus Christ is "the resurrection and the life"; He died for our sins on the Cross, was raised from the dead on the third day, and is alive forever (**Revelation 1:18**), "I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore."

We know, that if we have repented of our sins, confessing Christ as Lord, and believing in Him as Savior, we have eternal life in Him!

Today, we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior from the dead; but we are not only looking back at some event in the distant past, for Christ's resurrection should impact our lives every single day, for Christians have the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."

Today, I want to ask you the following questions:

Do you believe in and confess Jesus Christ as Lord?

Do you have the assurance in your heart [your spirit] that you belong to the Savior and that you will live, even though you die?

Take a moment right now, soberly consider in your heart all the Scriptures declare, all that has happened.

If you know that you have eternal life, praise God!!

But if you are at all unsure that you have received forgiveness for your sins and eternal life, settle that right now, right here. Don't leave here with any doubts.

Admit to God that you are a sinner (we all are), repent of your sins, ask God to forgive you (He turns no one away).

Believe in Jesus Christ for salvation, He died for your sins on a cross, taking your punishment, to set you free!

Confess Jesus Christ as Lord, for He rose from the grave to proclaim victory over sin, death, and judgement.

Pray [talk] to God continually [as if you were talking with a loving father], He wants fellowship with you.

Read God's Word daily, obey what you understand. living with Jesus as your example to follow in this life.

Participate in a Bible Believing, Teaching, and Practicing **Church**, where God's Word is honored and proclaimed.

Serve the Lord **through word and deed**, for He is the only the Way [to God], the only Truth [of God], and the only Life [from God], and He is coming back to take us to be with Him forever, ion heaven.

Good news, good news, for you and for me: Jesus arose and He lives don't you see! Good news, good news, let's tell it to others; that they too may know of this wonderful Savior Who loves us all so.

He is Risen!

Pastor Mike

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