"BECAUSE HE LIVES"

JOHN 14:19
4-9-2023

INTRODUCTION: Happy Resurrection Day! It's not Easter bunnies and eggs. It's the resurrection of Christ.

The Gospel is the Death and Resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-3)

John 14 – He is risen indeed and therefore:

1) Is building a mansion like dwelling place for His bride (v.2)
2) He will one day return to gather His people to Himself (v.3)
3) He currently brings people into a relationship with the Father (v.6)
4) Has a very wide geographical influence by working globally thru His people (v.12)
5) Answers prayer (v.14)
6) Comes to live in His people by His Holy Spirit (v.18)

Christ's resurrection is more than a historical fact or theological doctrine...

--It means life for you! Eternal life! Abundant life!

His resurrection provides <u>benefits</u> for all who believe.

When you believe the Gospel, you become one with Christ. He becomes your life. The amazing mystery of the Gospel is that the believer becomes one with Christ. What He has is yours.

God <u>imputes</u> Christ's work to your account. We are adopted into God's family and become "joint heirs" with Christ! We inherit what is His, by virtue of being born into His family.

"God, who is rich in mercy...has quickened us <u>together</u> with Christ...and hath <u>raised</u> us up <u>together</u>, and made us sit <u>together</u> in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephes. 2:5-6)

(Cp. Col. 2:12-13)

ILLUS: Being in a family -- Because I'm part of a family, it's <u>our</u> food, <u>our</u> home, <u>our</u> backyard. See John 14:20 – Being in unity with Christ means we share in His life. (illust. The two become one in marriage)

- His death for sin is our death in relationship to sin
- His life is our life
- His resurrection is our resurrection
- His righteousness is our righteousness

- His wealth is our wealth ("Joint-heirs")

*** "Because I live ye shall live also"**

THE PROMISE IS <u>CERTAIN</u>

"Shall" = future tense = will

Not: may, might, could, would, should, possibly, hope so, etc.

The one thing mankind (throughout history) has dreaded --Death--is no longer a cause for alarm (fear, worry) because Jesus is alive!

[Everyone outside of Jesus Christ--if they are honest with themselves and are in their right mind--fears death!]

"I <u>am</u> the Resurrection and the life; he that <u>believeth in Me</u>, though he were dead, yet <u>shall</u> he live" (Jn. 11:25)

The reason the promise is so certain is because of our <u>union</u> with Christ.

Jesus not only gives us life, He <u>is</u> our life.

He is <u>the Life</u> (Jn. 14:6)

"When Christ who <u>is our life</u> shall appear..."

"He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit" (I Cor. 6:17) (cp. Jn. 17:21).

"By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..." (I Cor. 12:13).

"We are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones." (Eph. 5:30)

"Thy dead men shall live, <u>together with my dead body</u> shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead" (Is. 26:19).

What men promise they seldom fulfill.

What God promises, He always fulfills.

“Because I live, ye SHALL live also”

THE PROMISE IS <u>CONDITIONAL</u>

This promise is offered to everyone, but not everyone can claim it (not all have possession

of it). Why? Not all have received Christ (become united to Him).
"Ye" - plural - referring to His disciples. Those that are "in Him" (v. 20)

ILLUS: of how being "in" someone's will gives you rights and benefits others can't receive (it pays to be related to a rich uncle).

With relationship comes privileges.

Being related to Christ brings benefits!

The world cannot receive the Spirit (v. 17), nor could they see Christ (after His resurrection) (v. 19a).

He only appeared to <u>believers</u> (I Cor. 15:5-6) and to those who became believers the instant they saw Him (His half-brother James, and Paul (v. 7-8)

V. 20
"At that day" = when Jesus would come to them (v. 18) via the Holy Spirit (He would not leave us as <u>orphans</u> - v. 18).

* "Because I live ye shall live also"

In what sense will we live also? If you are "in Christ," you will <u>reap the benefits</u> of His resurrection! The benefit means life for you.

<u>2 benefits</u> of Christ's resurrection:

The first benefit you can enjoy right now!

I. Because He lives, we have a: <u>REAL PURPOSE IN LIFE NOW</u>!

You will not have to wait until you die to have eternal life--it began the day you trusted Christ!

He gave us life! Abundant life! "I am come that they might have <u>life</u>, and that they might have it more <u>abundantly</u>" (Jn. 10:10).

OUR LIFE IS NO LONGER <u>VAIN</u> (empty, meaningless, without purpose)

What did God create man for? That man might know God, enjoy God and glorify Him forever!

There is no meaning to life without your being rightly related to God.
What does the average lost person have to live for?
Money -- it's empty without God

Pleasure -- it's empty without God
Because Christ is alive, we have a real, genuine Savior to live for!

The Indian gurus have died
The so called Muslim prophet Mohammed died and is in his grace today
Buddah died and can do nothing for his followers
Every man who claimed to be sent from God died
--and remains in the grave!

But Jesus is alive! We have turned from idols to serve the living and true God!

Because Jesus is alive, our faith in Him and our labor for Him is not in vain (SEE I Cor. 15:12-20; 58).

OUR LIFE NOW HAS MEANING

Life for me took on a whole new meaning when I trusted Christ! I now had something to live for! I now had goals and a purpose for living.

My life was empty, hollow, vain without Him being the very center and core of it.

If you are a believer, you can't live life to its fullest without Christ being at the center of it!

We have a message to tell that has meaning.
We have a job to perform that has meaning.
We have a goal to accomplish that has meaning.

(One goal is to see men, women, boys, and girls come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to see them mature in the Word)

This glorifies God and fulfills your life. But none of this would be possible if Christ did not arise!

> HYMN - "I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today. I know that He is living whatever men may say. I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need Him, He's always near. He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today..."

What gave the apostles such zeal? What motivated them?

ANSWER: The Resurrection of Christ! They were willing to die for the One they knew was alive!

> (cp. the message of the Apostles: Acts 1:22, 2:24, 31, 32; 3:15, 26; 4:2, 10, 33; 5:30; 10:40; 13:7, 23, 30, 33, 34, 37; 17:18, 31-32; 23:6, 8; 24:15, 21)

"He [Paul] preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18).

Paul's desire: "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection..." (Phil. 3:10)

The resurrection was the brightest day in History!

Because Jesus is alive we have something to live for! Abundant life.

II. Because He lives, we have: <u>ETERNAL LIFE IN THE FUTURE</u>!

Because Jesus is alive we have something to look forward to!
Death does not end the life of the believer!

Job said: "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." (Job 19:25-27)

"And this is the record, that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <u>He who has the Son</u> has life..." (I Jn. 5:11, 12).

Rom. 8:11 - "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

If the "Spirit is life" (v. 10), and the Spirit is in you (v. 9), then the logical conclusion is that you will be guaranteed life!

Having Christ's spirit guarantees your resurrection.

Just as the Holy Spirit "quickened" Christ (I Pet. 3:18), He will quicken those "in Christ."

Jesus has power over the grave.
Ill. As a young man, D.L. Moody was called upon suddenly to preach a funeral sermon. He hunted all through the four Gospels trying to find one of Christ's funeral sermons, but searched in vain. He found that Christ broke up every funeral He ever attended. Death could not exist where He was. When the dead heard His voice they sprang to life. ex. Lazarus.

Christ's resurrection assures the believer that He too will rise again.

Ill. 400 years before the birth of Christ, Socrates, the renowned Greek Philosopher, drank the poison hemlock and lay down to die. "Shall we live again?" his friends asked. The dying philosopher could only reply. "I hope so, but no man can know"

At Lazarus' tomb Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life" (Jn.11:25).

Our union with Christ assures our resurrection with Him.
Read: Rom.6:8-9; Col.3:1-4.
"Christ is the firstfruits of them that slept"

The Lord Jesus by His resurrection took away Satan's power to cause a fear of death. The Bible teaches that He took upon Himself flesh and blood "that through death he might destroy him that had power of death, that is the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Heb.2:14,15).

There will be no funerals in Heaven!
"The Christian dies to live" D.L. Moody

An unresurrected Christ could not give eternal life (Rom. 6:23) to anyone.

If He did not conquer death, what hope would we have that we would? (since He is our life - Col. 3:4).

JESUS IS IN SOVEREIGN CONTROL OVER LIFE (Rev. 1:17-18)

And when I (John) saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

"was dead" = Became dead. This One who is eternal entered into death. Death = When the spirit leaves the body (Mt.27:50, Jn.19:30).

"Alive for evermore" - no matter what may happen in this world, you can rest on the confidence that Christ is alive.

He knows what is going on in your life and He cares.

HE IS SOVEREIGN! (v.18b)

Christ is sovereign in the area of physical death.

"keys" denote: ownership, authority, control.
Christ has the right to say who goes where. He is in control.

He controls when you will die.

No one dies without God's permission (ex. Job - Satan was allowed to test, but not kill) (ex. in Rev.9 men are tormented for 5 months but death flees from them.)

"key" symbolizes undisputable authority see Rev.3:7.

1. Believers should not fear death or Hell.
(This is the comfort John received by the statement)

   Death had its gates (Ps 9:13, 107:18; Is.38:10) But Christ has the keys to the gates.

   Ill. of an emperor's limitation. The Emperor Theodosius having on a great occasion opened all the prisons and released his prisoners, is reported to have said: "and now would to God I could open all the tombs and give life to the dead"

2. Unbelievers should fear death and Hell.
(Because you don't belong to the One who is holding the keys)

   The very things about Christ which should cause a believer not to fear, should cause an unbeliever to fear. The Bible says "For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life."(II Cor.2:15,16).

   "Keys" (plural) Christ has double power - He either saves from Hell, or He consigns (sends) to Hell.

   "Hell" = Hades: The place of the spirits of the unbelieving dead.

   In Hell there is no enjoyment of life, home friends, possessions! There is no rest, and no comfort.

   Although there is no way to fully describe the horrors of Hell in human terms, Jesus described Hell as a reality; a place of torment, memory and remorse. A place of unsatisfied desire (Lk.16); a place of darkness (Mt.8:12); A place of isolation-eternal separation from loved ones who are believers and a place of weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth (Lk.13:28), a place of everlasting punishment (Mt.25:46).

   Jesus Christ will have no other choice than to open Hell for those who are absolutely determined to reject His matchless love and grace. (you say: "I have never rejected it" - If you have never received it you are rejecting it) (you say: "I don't believe there is a Hell", Friend, "Hell is a truth seen too late")

CONCLUSION:

Are you downhearted, discouraged, depressed? Today is Easter! It's a reminder that Christ is alive! And He is your life!

"Because I live, ye shall live also." Believe it, brothers!
This truth should fill you with peace!
This truth should fill you with confidence!
This truth should fill you with anticipation!

This is a declaration that gives security, meaning, and a hope to life.

HYMN: "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living, just because He lives."
(Bill Gaither)

Christ's resurrection was a day that changed the course of the world: By Christ's resurrection:

1) He proved that He was who He said He was ("Son of God, the Messiah")

2) He proved that could do what He said he could do ("raise this temple in three days)

3) He proved that He could keep the promise that He made! "Because I live, ye shall live also!"

His resurrection has meaning for you. It is the guarantee that you will rise again!

This is a promise to claim; gives real purpose in life, and reveals a bright prospect for the future!

Apart from Jesus there is:
no security, no meaning to life, no future.

Apart from Jesus there is:
no promise for you to claim, no real purpose to life, and no bright prospect for the future.

Will you give Him your life today? Will you believe that He died and rose again for you?

Rom. 4:25 - Jesus was "delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."
He died because of your sins.

He arose because you needed to be justified.

And now that He is alive He can and will justify you. He will clothe you with His righteousness if you trust Him.

What saith the empty tomb to me,
This hallowed Easter morn?
It speaks of life and victory,
And glorious hope new-born.

It tells of One who hung in shame
Upon a cross of woe,
That all who call upon His name
Eternal life might know.

It tells me He hath risen indeed,
And at the Father's throne
Now daily stands to intercede
For His redeemed, His own.

It tells me that because He lives,
I, too, shall never die--
and everlasting hope it gives
Of joy with Him on high.

It tells me death is overthrown;
Yeah, 'tis a conquered foe,
For Christ the way of life hath shown,
Through Calvary's cross of woe.

What saith the empty tomb today?
It saith, "The Lord hath risen,
Dispelling evermore the gloom
Of death's foreboding prison."

It saith, "Look unto Him and live,
For He hath power to save;
Life everlasting He doth give,
And vict'ry o'er the grave."

--A.B. Christiansen