The Practical Significance of Christ's Resurrection

Selected Scriptures from Romans & Revelation

Easter Morning - April 8, 2007

Introduction:

*Realize the practical significance of Christ's Resurrection!

Because Jesus Christ arose from the dead and lives today, I have confidence...

I. *I have a confidence that*
JESUS IS THE <u>SON OF GOD</u> (Rom.1:3-<u>4</u>)

II. *I have a confidence that*
JESUS HAS GIVEN ME <u>HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS</u> (Rom.4:24-<u>25</u>)

III. *I have a confidence that*
JESUS WILL <u>KEEP ME SAVED</u> BY HIS LIFE (Rom.5:9-<u>10</u>)

IV. *I have a confidence that*
JESUS WILL <u>RESURRECT ME FROM THE DEAD</u> (Rom.6:4-<u>5</u>,<u>8</u>-9)

V. *I have a confidence that*
JESUS IS <u>INTERCEDING</u> ON MY BEHALF (Rom.8:34)

VI. *I have a confidence that*
JESUS IS THE LIVING LORD, WHO <u>I LIVE FOR AND SERVE</u> (Rom.14:8-<u>9</u>)

VII. *I have a confidence that*
JESUS IS IN <u>SOVEREIGN CONTROL</u> OVER LIFE (Rev.1:17-<u>18</u>)

VIII. *I have a confidence that*
JESUS WILL <u>COME AGAIN</u> (Rev.1:5-<u>7</u>; 22:7,20)

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Introduction:

What is Easter?

For most American children, Easter is scurrying around the house in search of colored eggs their parents hid away, or "pigging out" on a basket of chocolate bunnies, marshmallow chicks, and jelly beans. Then getting dressed up in the best clothing they will wear and being hauled off to church.

The real significance of Easter (or better "Resurrection Day") is that we recall to memory the fact that our Savior Jesus Christ arose from the dead three days after being crucified.

But what is so significant about Christ's resurrection?

His resurrection is a matter of weighty importance to Christians; but why?

"The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental event upon which the entire Christian faith rests. . . If the resurrection of Jesus were removed from the biblical account, the Christian faith would collapse, becoming simply another man-made religion" (Charles Stanley).

*Realize the practical significance of Christ's Resurrection!

Because Jesus Christ arose from the dead and lives today, I have confidence...

I. ***I have a confidence that***

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD (Rom.1:3-4)

Jesus said, *"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up. . . He spoke of the temple of His body"* (John 2:19, 21).

He also told His disciples that He would be delivered over to the Gentiles *"to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify: and the third day he shall rise again"* (Mt. 20:19).

If He hadn't risen, what right would we have to believe Him? He would have been a liar and certainly not the Messiah.

If Jesus had not been raised from the tomb, then He is dead.

If He is dead, then He was no more than a mere false prophet who peddled yet another false religion.

If He remained dead, He left us no solid evidence to back up His claim that He was deity and the Messiah.

If we don't have a living Savior, we don't have a living faith.

And if He is not the way to eternal life, then as Paul said, *"Our preaching [is] vain. . . your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. . .* (all dead Christians) *are perished. . . . [and] we are of all men most miserable"* (I Cor. 15:14, 17, 18, 19).

Christ's death seemed to be weakness, but His resurrection revealed His power.

As the reference to Christ's flesh points to His humanity (in v. 3), the reference to His "Spirit of holiness" points to His divinity.

"In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9).

The words: "Spirit" and "holiness" describe the essence of God (Jn. 4:24; 17:11). Only God is spirit; only God is holy in and of Himself. Jesus Christ is God the Son!

II.*I have a confidence that*
JESUS HAS GIVEN ME <u>HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS</u> **(Rom.4:24-<u>25</u>)**

Jesus died because of the transgressions <u>we committed</u> (v. 25a), and He was raised to life again because of the justification <u>we needed</u> (v. 25b).

We could not be justified had Christ not risen from the dead, since justification means being clothed with the righteousness of the living Christ. A dead Savior could not justify.

Jesus will one day be called by this name: *"The LORD our Righteousness"* (Jer. 23:6; 33:16).

III.*I have a confidence that*
JESUS WILL KEEP ME SAVED BY HIS LIFE (Rom.5:9-10)

We are secure because of:
the Life of Christ (v. 9 - 10)

v. 9

"Much more then" - introduces a rabbinical means of proving a point by going from the greater to the less (cp. v. 10, 15, 17, 20)

The point is: If God can (in the present "now") declare a wretched sinner "righteous," He sure can (in the future) rescue the one He justified from ever falling into the fires of Hell!

If the blood that Jesus shed when He died can remove the guilt of sin now, cannot the living Jesus deliver you from the penalty of sin later? Yes!

"Saved from wrath" = lit. saved from the wrath; God is not speaking about wrath in general, but the specific coming wrath - Hell.

Our future salvation from the wrath, or fury, of God is based upon the past justification of God.

Justification in the present guarantees salvation in the future!

V. 10

Again, arguing from the greater to the lesser, Paul is saying, If God could save us when we were enemies, can't He keep us saved now that we are friends? Yes!

If Christ's death brought us into a friendship relationship, can't His life keep us in such a relationship? Yes!

"If the death of Christ was the means of our reconciliation, the life of Christ will be the means of our preservation" (Griffith Thomas, p. 150).

ILLUS: Hymn - "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds my future, and life is worth the living just because He lives!"

If it wasn't for the resurrected Christ imparting His life (Jn. 1:4, 11:25, 14:6) to us, there would be no hope for eternity. Life would begin in the womb and end in a coffin.

IV.*I have a confidence that*
JESUS WILL RESURRECT ME FROM THE DEAD (Rom.6:4-5,8-9)

V. 5
"If" = a condition
1.We have been "Planted together" = a fusing, uniting (inseparable union).
Forms basis for resurrection.

2.We will live together (v. 8)
We will live with Christ because we were united in His death.

IF - condition. It is obvious that if we are
considered by God as:1) dead together
2)buried
3)planted, &
4)crucified together,
. . . then we will certainly be resurrected together.

v.8"We believe" = a dogmatic confidence

V. 9-10 - We will live with Christ - we are united into His never-ending life.

We believe (v. 8) is based on "knowing" (v. 9), not on feelings.

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!

"Mortal" = subject to death

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).

V.*I have a confidence that*
JESUS IS INTERCEDING ON MY BEHALF (Rom.8:34)

"Who is he that condemneth" = who is the one bringing judgment against you?

Whoever would has no right to! Why? Because Christ took our judgment (condemnation) upon Himself when He died!

Christ(1)Died
(2)Arose
(3)Ascended
(4)And now intercedes.

Christ's death paid for my pardon (Rom. 4:25a).

Christ's resurrection applied my pardon (Rom. 4:25b).

Christ's ascension guaranteed my pardon.
("right hand" = place of power and authority)

Christ's intercession pleads my pardon.
(SEE: I Jn. 1:1-2 - Christ is our advocate (our defense attorney) who pleads our case before the Father. It is a comfort to know that God the Son [v. 34] as well as God the Holy Spirit, intercedes for us [v. 26])

Jesus acts as our defence attorney (I John 2:1)

He also brings our needs before the Father as our mediator (I Tim.2:5); We don't need to go through some dead saint; We can go directly to the One in charge!

VI.*I have a confidence that*

JESUS IS THE LIVING LORD, WHOM I LIVE FOR AND SERVE (Rom.14:8-9)

Without the resurrection, what would we believers be living for? What is our effort for? Why such church gatherings? Why evangelistic efforts? What hope do we have? What meaning is there to life?

Our labor would be vain! (I Cor. 15:58)

VII.*I have a confidence that*

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

"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")

--He has all authority

Mt. 28:18 -*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"*

--He sustains the universe

Col. 1:17-18*"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."*

--He heads up the church

Eph. 1:19-23*"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all"*

VIII.*I have a confidence that*
JESUS WILL <u>COME AGAIN</u> (Rev.1:5-<u>7</u>; 22:7,20)

V.5"First begotten" = lit. first born. Just as the firstborn son in a Jewish home received certain rights, privileges and authority, Jesus (who is the firstborn from the dead) holds rights, privileges, and authority that no one else shares.

He who was the first one to be resurrected with an incorruptible, immortal body is the one who now has authority over the grave (SEE Rev. 1:18; Jn. 5:21-29).

V.7"He cometh with the clouds" - not the ordinary clouds of nature that Jesus descends into, but clouds that went with Him into heaven (Acts 1:9; Dan. 7:13) and clouds which He will return with.

V. 20

"He which testifieth" = Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1-2)

"Surely" = YES

"I come quickly" - Christ's coming will be with speed
(Mt. 24:27 - "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.")

"Amen" = so be it. This is the response of someone who is ready.
"Even so" = Yes

"Come Lord Jesus" = the heart's desire of someone who loves Christ is to have Him come--and soon.

Today, we await the coming of Christ (I Th. 4:14-18). The Day of the Lord will follow and catch the world by surprise (I Th. 5:1-9)

This interim time period is a time to:

*<u>wait</u> for His coming
I Th. 1:10 - "And to wit for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."
*<u>look</u> for His coming
Titus 2:13 - "Looking for that blessed hope,a nd the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savor Jesus Christ"
*<u>be ready</u> for His coming
Mt. 24:44 - "Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."
*<u>to desire</u> His coming
Rev. 22:20 - "Even so come Lord Jesus"

Conclusion:

One day all will acknowledge the living Christ as *"Lord"* (Phil. 2:9-11).

Some with joy to see Him *"face to face"* (I Cor. 13:12); others with stunned amazement and regret.

Because He lives, He can save you today.

Because He lives, you can experience the gift of eternal life.