

THE RESURRECTION

Beloved of God, Yes Christian, today I would like for us to look at the most important day of all days to a Christian: Resurrection Sunday, otherwise known as Easter Sunday. Our religion is not based upon opinions, but upon facts. We hear people sometimes saying, "Those are your views, and these are ours." Whatever your "views" may be, is a small matter; what is important is what are the facts of the case? We must, after all, if we want a firm foundation, come down to matters of fact. Now, the great facts of the gospel are that God was incarnate in Christ Jesus, that He lived here a life of holiness and love, that He died upon the cross for our sins, that He was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, that on the third day He rose again from the dead, and that after forty days He ascended to His Father's throne where He now sits at the right hand of the Father (I Cor. 15:1-8; Matt. 27:57-60; II Cor. 5:19; Eph. 1:19-21).

My beloved brethren, our entire religion and hope rest on the facts of the gospel of Christ and **His bodily resurrection** from the dead. To those of us that have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, every day should be Resurrection Sunday! Our entire hope for eternity rests on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead to demonstrate **His power over sin, Satan, and death!** Brothers and sisters, when you put your trust in the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus you also attained the victory, and the promise of eternal life.

- **I Corinthians 15:14 & 16-17** "And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is vain (worthless) and your faith is also vain." "For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!"
- **I Corinthians 15:51-53** "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (in death), but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For **if we believe that Jesus died and rose again**, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first**. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

The events above, and the return of Jesus Christ for His people, I believe are soon to happen, because it's pretty hard to think a just and righteous God would tolerate the total apathy, evil and disregard for life we see when we look at the world around us. We as believers must keep our eyes on Israel, which is God's timepiece, as we see the world's hatred toward His chosen people, and the events that are taking place there. Also, my friends, we are called by God to be conformed to the likeness of Jesus.

- **Romans 8:29** "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

We as believers are the Church and the Bride of Christ, and our time is drawing near when our Savior, our Bridegroom will call from the clouds, "Come up hither," and take us to the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9), then shall we ever be with our Lord. We must remember the words spoken to the disciples by Jesus before His arrest:

- **John 14:1-6** "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go

to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto Him, 'Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?' Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.'

It is at this point I would like to share some Jewish history and tradition. When a man was engaged and was about to be married, he would go to his father to ask for his inheritance. Part of that would be the land and house the father would grant him, and the right to build onto the father's house a place for him and his bride to live. That is exactly what Jesus has done for us, His bride. He has gone to His Father's house in heaven, and is preparing an eternal dwelling place for us. Oh what a promise we have in Christ Jesus!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the seal of approval on a work well done and complete, yes the price was **paid in full** for every sin that had ever been committed by mankind. •**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

•**Revelation 1:5** "...Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and **washed us from our sins in His own blood.**"

Remember the words of Jesus from the cross, "***It is finished!***" - and it was. Then He said, "***Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.***" He then bowed His head and died. That's right, our sinless God became a sinless man who walked this earth, and at Calvary some 2000 years ago became every sin that had ever been committed on earth. In so doing He bought complete freedom for all who would accept what He did as a free gift, and would just trust Him as Savior and Lord.

•**John 3:17** "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

•**II Corinthians 5:21** "For He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin, to BE sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

My beloved Christian brother, sister, friend, do you not feel as I, a joyous spirit within, now that you have been reconciled with the God of all creation? Without that ***Glorious Resurrection of our Lord***, none of this would be possible. Jesus says, "***I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.***" John 11:25-26

That is total security. Oh, how blessed we are being one with Christ Jesus!

The resurrection truly IS the reason for the season! It is my prayer that we will live every day as Resurrection Sunday!

In His Love And Service

Pastor Tom

RESURRECTION IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

The divinity of Christ finds its surest proof in His resurrection(Rom 1:4). Christ's sovereignty also depends on His resurrection (Rom 14:9). Again, our justification hangs on Christ's resurrection (Rom 4:25). Our very regeneration depends on His resurrection (1 Peter 1:3). And most certainly our ultimate resurrection rests here (Rom 8:11). The silver thread of resurrection runs through all the blessings, from regeneration onward to our eternal glory, and binds them together. —8.219

C. H. Spurgeon.