

Resurrection Sunday

{The 1st Lord's Day – 30 A.D.}

{April 17, 2016 A.D.}

PART IV

What is the significance of the Resurrection of Jesus and the empty tomb????

1. The Resurrection of Jesus was chief among all the signs to an unbelieving and skeptical world.
2. God validated the Person, Teaching and Ministry of Jesus, by His bodily resurrection.
3. God substantiated Jesus' claim to be the source of all life, eternal through the Resurrection.
4. The Resurrection of Jesus is preached as an essential part of the Gospel and Confession/Proclamation of the Early Church (30-100 A.D.).
5. Resurrection to eternal life with God is the Hope of every Believer in Jesus Christ.

What are our most significant problems????

As creatures, in the image and likeness of God, standing morally accountable before a holy, just, sovereign and faithful God, sin, death and the wrath of God are, by far, our most significant problems.

❖ Resurrection to eternal life with God is the Hope of every Believer in Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (NASB95)

¹² Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead,
how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God,
because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise,

if in fact the dead are not raised.

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and

if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

Salvation is the monergistic work of God in Christ alone, by Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Holy Scripture alone, to the Glory of God alone.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NASB95)

¹ And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked . . . and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions,

made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works,

so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Evidence of a Real Physical Death:

- ✓ Roman Officials were convinced.
 - Their soldiers were experts at causing and recognizing death. The scourging and the crucifixion were designed to effect the most painful and dreaded of all forms of death.
- ✓ Of the literally thousands of crucifixions the Romans performed there were never any survivors!
- ✓ Pilate carefully checked reports before releasing the body of Jesus for burial (Mark 15:44).
- ✓ The Jewish officials were convinced of His death – they made no protest to the removal of His body from the Cross.
- ✓ Jesus' friends were convinced.
 - They were grief stricken.
 - They buried Him.

Evidence of a Real Physical Resurrection:

- ✓ The soldiers left their posts and ceased guarding the tomb (Matthew 28:11-25).
 - They were not overcome by fisherman, tax collectors and women.
 - They did not fall asleep.
 - Four Roman watches instead of three – customary of Jewish soldiers/death penalty
 - How would they know what happened?
 - Why would the valuable grave clothes be left behind?
- ✓ Instead of pointing to the convincing proof of Christ's remains, the Jewish religious leaders fabricated the story of the theft of the body.
 - They coerced/bribed the soldiers to lie about the body of Jesus (Matthew 28:11-15).
- ✓ Jesus' friends stopped caring for the tomb.
 - They found the grave clothes but no body.
 - They began reporting/confessing and proclaiming Jesus' Resurrection.
- ✓ 500 witnesses saw Him.
- ✓ He was seen by some who initially doubted (Luke 24:31-39).
- ✓ Jesus' disciples underwent radical transformation of belief/heart/attitude/life.

Radical Transformation:

Disciples/Apostles:

1. **Peter** was crucified upside down.
2. **Andrew** was crucified.
3. **James**, the son of Zebedee, was killed by the sword.
4. **John** was persecuted and exiled by Domitian (Titus Flavius Domitianus (A.D. 51-96), Roman emperor (A.D. 81-96)
5. **Phillip** was crucified.
6. **Bartholomew** was crucified.
7. **Thomas** was thrust through with a spear.
8. **Matthew** was killed by the sword.
9. **James**, the son of Alphaeus, was crucified.
10. **Thaddaeus** was killed by arrows.
11. **Simon** the Zealot was crucified.
12. **Paul** was beheaded.

Persecuted Church and its Christian Martyrs throughout History and Today: