

The Resurrection Means Life

What does the resurrection mean for us? Why does it matter?

The apostle John saw a vision of the Glorified Risen Jesus risen:

Revelation 1: 17-18

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

The Risen Jesus loves greeting his people and sharing joy and dispelling fear. He did that a number of times after his resurrection.

The resurrection affects us personally. His invitation to freedom from fear is to us.

Why not be afraid? Because Risen Jesus is the first and last. Alpha and Omega!

Hebrews 1:2

...his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things and through whom he made the universe.

You couldn't get much more first and last than before creation and being the ultimate inheritor of everything!

Some of us find security looking backwards - we look at history, data, track records. Some of us find security in future hope - possibilities, change, ideas, what might be.

Jesus is the Lord of history and the Risen Jesus is Lord of eternity.

But Hebrews 1:3 goes on to say that same Risen Jesus is sustaining all things by his powerful word. The in-between bits! He's keeping the planets orbiting the stars, the electrons spinning around their nucleus, the blood pumping around our bodies throughout the days he's ordained for us.

Back to Revelation 1: 18 - I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!

This Living One needs you to know that he was dead. That he died. **His death and resurrection are a package.** You can't have one without the other! You can't be a Christian that skips over either the significance of the death or the resurrection of Jesus.

His Death makes his resurrection miraculous.

His Resurrection makes his death glorious.

The Living One, victor over death, now **today** makes these declarations over your **past, future** and **present**.

DECLARATION OVER YOUR PAST

a) Your past failures have been dealt with, once for all.

Paid for - Hebrews 10: 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

Cleansed - 1 John 1:7. and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. Your sins remembered no more before the God who knows all. The Living one says, "what sin?"

b) Your standing with God has been changed

At the cross, where your sin became Christ's, so his righteousness became yours. Robed in righteousness. Romans 5: 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood...

c) Your enemies have been defeated.

Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

There is no battle between good and evil. Jesus has already won. The Living One says, "Do not fear".

DECLARATION OVER YOUR FUTURE

d) Your death is not the end

There are many euphemisms for death. Kick the bucket, pushing up daisies, croaked, bit the dust, popped your clogs. The language speaks of finality.

Jesus said: "He who believes in me will live even though they die."

There's a promise of eternal life with Jesus and his people forever

e) Your body will be raised to life physically

Jesus was the firstborn from death. The firstfruits of the resurrection to come. You will receive a resurrected physical body like his, free from pain and full of life!

1 Corinthians 15:42-43 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

DECLARATION OVER YOUR PRESENT

f) Your weaknesses don't define you

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you!”

His resurrection power is made perfect in your weakness. Temptation can be resisted, because he lives in you!

Challenges can be withstood, because he is there. Confidence can be found.

g) You have a calling and a purpose to bless the world with his presence

The risen ascended Jesus gave gifts to his church. From prophesying, to serving, to speaking in tongues, to miracle working, to generosity, to showing kindness and mercy, to teaching, and caring. The risen Jesus has given you gifts. (You may need to blow the dust off!)

h) Your prayers will be answered. His Kingdom will come.

How do we know? Because he ever lives to intercede for us. He fixes our prayers. He empowers our prayers. Ask and it will be given to you.

He's got the keys. He's unlocked all of this for us; do you believe it?

Questions:

1. Unlikely witnesses. Do you think Jesus chose who he would show himself to first? Why did he choose Mary and the other women do you think? What does that teach us about Jesus?
2. Lord of past, future and present. Where do you find it easiest to derive energy, comfort and security? Past, present or future? Why? How does the Risen Jesus shape your view?
3. Which of Christ's declarations over you (see a to h above) do you find easiest to believe and hardest to believe?