

The Resurrection of Jesus brings Hope for Today and Forever!

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These are challenging days for our whole world. Our lives have been changed by the COVID 19 virus. Our world is broken and feeling the impact of this. Today, we will talk about how the resurrection of Jesus can and does bring hope to us in these days and forever. Resurrection brings hope!

Key Idea: The resurrected Christ brings hope both for today and forever!

I. There is a God-shaped _____ in our soul.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

There is a sense in us that we should live forever. There is a cry from within for justice, love and mercy.

We were made to have a relationship with God!

II. Our world has a bigger _____ than corona.

Genesis 3:5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Adam and Eve chose independence over trust in God. It is the natural choice of preferring any created thing over God. It is a choice that is reinforced by every avenue in our culture.

The heart of sin is man taking God's place on the throne. The heart of salvation is God taking man's place on the cross. Anonymous

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

Isaiah 59:2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pain: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world. C.S. Lewis (The Problem of Pain)

Romans 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

May God speak to us through the trials we are now facing.

III. God has provided a way back to Him: Jesus Christ, His _____.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

It cost God nothing so far as we know to create nice things, but to convert rebellious wills cost Him crucifixion. C.S. Lewis Mere Christianity chapter 10

Romans 5:14 Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. 15 But there is a great difference between Adam’s sin and God’s gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

No one has sacrificed more to have a relationship with us than God through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ.

IV. The Resurrection of Jesus brings hope for today and forever!

Romans 5:17 For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. NLT

John 11:25 Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. 26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

To preach Christianity meant (to the Apostles) primarily to preach the Resurrection. The Resurrection is the central theme in every sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the ‘gospel’ or good news which the Christians brought. C.S. Lewis (Miracles chapter 16)

Romans 5:18 Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

Luke 24:5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” 8 And they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

None of [the] major figures who constituted the inner circle of Jesus would have become or remained followers of Jesus after the crucifixion if there was no resurrection and no resurrection appearances of Jesus. The church, in the persons of its earliest major leaders, was constituted by the event of the resurrection, coupled with the Pentecost event! The stories of these figures, especially their post-Easter stories, are the validation of this fact. There would be no church without the risen and appearing Jesus.

Ben Witherington III What Have They Done with Jesus? Beyond Strange Theories and Bad History

Luke 24:11 but these words seemed to them an *idle tale*, and they did not believe them.

Luke 24:15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

2 Corinthians 4:18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Luke 24:30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were *opened*, and they *recognized* him. (Luke 24:32, 34)

“In 56 A.D. Paul wrote that over 500 people had seen the risen Jesus and that most of them are still alive (1 Corinthians 15:6). It passes the bounds of credibility that the early Christians could have manufactured such a tale and then preached it among those who might easily have refuted it simply by producing the body of Jesus.” (John Montgomery)

1 Corinthians 15:6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

Luke 24:38 And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

Simon Greenleaf, a Harvard attorney, says of the disciples, “It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths, they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as any other fact.” (John 7:5, James 1:1)

John 7:5 For not even his brothers believed in him.

James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

James the Lord’s half-brother went from unbelief to belief.

Luke 24:45 Then he *opened* their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that *repentance* and *forgiveness* of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

“We need to remember that even the disciples/ first century people could not have conceived of this happening. They couldn’t help it. They had seen it. And it changed their lives. You know even if you don’t like what I am saying, you should want it to be true... because it means that there is more to this life than what we see. There will be justice for the poor, alleviating of hunger and disease, and caring for the environment.” Tim Keller

Acts 14:15b and we bring you good news, that you should *turn* from these *vain things* to a *living God*, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

Acts 13:39 and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. (Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 3:10, Revelation 21:4)

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

Historical faith says, “Christ lives!”

Saving faith says, "Christ lives *in me!*"

**Do you have saving faith?
Will you put your faith in the one who undeniably rose from the dead?**

Spiritual Growth Questions for April 12, 2020

Opener: What is the difference between historical faith: Christ lives and saving faith: Christ lives in me?

1. **Read Philippians 3:10 and Ephesians 1:18-20.** What is the connection between belief and power? What is the connection between resurrection power and suffering? Why is this desire and prayer so important for us as believers during this time?
2. **Read I Corinthians 15:1-14.** Write down the proofs Paul gives of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Now focus on 15:14, 15:17.** What truth is Paul conveying to the Corinthians? Why is this so important?
3. **Read Acts 4:2, 4:33 17:18, 17:32.** What responses did the apostles get when they preached the resurrection? What responses do we get today when we preach the resurrection?
4. **Read John 11:25-26, 2:18-22, Matthew 28:6.** What did Jesus say about his resurrection? What would the implications be if he was lying?
5. **Read John 20:24-31.** Discuss the three types of doubt: factual, emotional and volitional. "*Factual doubt* usually raises issues regarding the truth of Christianity. *Emotional doubt* chiefly concerns our moods and feelings, often posing questions pertaining to assurance of salvation. *Volitional doubt* is a category that ranges from weak faith to a lack of motivation to follow the Lord." Gary Habermas. How did Jesus deal with Thomas' doubts? What helps you when you are dealing with doubt?
6. **Reflect on Romans 6:4, 8:11.** How does a believer have access to resurrection life? How does this change how we view broken lives? What helps you tap into the power of Jesus?
7. **Read John 5:17, Matthew 16:18, Revelation 5:9.** How can we be a part of what God is doing in San Francisco and around the world? Can the Corona virus thwart God's plan?

On Easter I always say to my skeptical, secular friends that, even if they can't believe in the resurrection, they should want it to be true. Most of them care deeply about justice for the poor, alleviating hunger and disease, and caring for the environment. Yet many of them believe that the material world was caused by accident and that the world and everything in it will eventually simply burn up in the death of the sun. They find it discouraging that so few people care about justice without realizing that their own worldview undermines any motivation to make the world a better place. Why sacrifice for the needs of others if in the end nothing we do will make any difference? If the resurrection of Jesus happened, however, that means there's infinite hope and reason to pour ourselves out for the needs of the world. Tim Keller

Philippians 3:10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Ephesians 1:18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great

might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.