

What Does the Resurrection Accomplish?

Intro: What's the big deal about the resurrection of Jesus? Couldn't Jesus have died in our place and not been raised from the dead? Couldn't the atonement of Christ been secure enough without the resurrection? Simply, no! If Jesus has not been raised from the dead, then you are still in your sins! You have not been born again and you have no hope of the resurrection to glory in the future! The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the keystone upon which our faith stands. If the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is not true, then the entire thing comes tumbling down, for He would be just another powerless martyr fell doomed to the greater power of death.

1 Cor 15:12-23 – without the resurrection our faith is futile

“If the Resurrection is not historic fact, then the power of death remains unbroken, and with it the effect of sin; and the significance of Christ's death remains uncertified, and accordingly believers are yet in their sins, precisely where they were before they heard of Jesus' name.” ~W.J. Sparrow-Simpson

a. It Ensures our Regeneration

i. 1 Pet 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- ii. Our new birth and subsequent power for living in hope, obedience, and becoming the people that God wants us to be, i.e. like Jesus, and seeing complete redemption revealed in the last time.
- iii. Jesus' new quality of life, “resurrection life,” is ours to be had. This gives us hope for the newness to come, the righteousness and peace (shalom) that follows a heart regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

1. 2 Cor 4:13-18

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak,¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,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.

- iv. Jesus earned this new life for us through his resurrection.

1. Eph 2:4-7,13

But¹ God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, 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 coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his

grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus... But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

2. Col 3:1-4

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your^l life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

3. Jesus, having obeyed the Father and atoned for the sins of the redeemed through His propitiating death upon the cross, was raised up by the power of God to sit in the heavenlies and hold us secure. His work is finished, therefore He sits down where He originally existed.

a. By faith in Him, we are “hidden with Him” within His completed work and perfect obedience

b. So, the resurrected Jesus is who holds us secure for all eternity

v. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the power that works within the believer in Jesus.

1. Eph 1:19-20

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,

2. Rom 6:4, 11, 14

a. The sending of the Holy Spirit came after the resurrection, so the power to be witness for Jesus and to work in the kingdom has its basis in the resurrection of Jesus.

i. Holy Spirit – *Paracletos* – “Helper”

ii. John 14:16,

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

iii. “another” (of the same kind) helper: The Holy Spirit is given to testify concerning Jesus, to remind our hearts of His gospel truth on a functional level

b. To accomplish any goal one needs the a) motivation, b) power, c) resources, and because of the resurrection of Jesus the Christian has been given all these by the Father to accomplish our goal: the glory of God through the grace of the Gospel

i. Motivation: New heart, new spirit, regeneration (1 Pet 1:3-5)

ii. Power: The Helper within you (the Holy Spirit, John 16:14)

iii. Resources: All the riches of God’s grace (Eph 1:3-14)

c. The Spirit of God still works! The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is at work within each and every believer! Do not despair of your sinful heart, but rather repent and believe in the power of God through Jesus Christ.

vi. It is this new resurrection life that gives us the power, the motivation, and the hope to worship and serve the Lord without fear and with complete assurance.

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ leads to fearless living for God’s glory b/c we do not fear death.

2. We hope, rather than fear, because Jesus has promised life and given us His Spirit within us to call out our sonship and therefore our inheritance with Him.
- vii. The only true change comes from a transformed heart, for it is a “living hope”.

b. It Ensures our Justification

- i. Jesus was raised up for our justification, our righteousness before God

1. Romans 4:25

He who was ^adelivered over because of our transgressions, and was ^braised because of our justification.

- a. Our justification is more than merely pardon before God, it is also our current and future righteousness. We have the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21)
- b. Eternally righteous for Christ lives to hold us by the power of God for all of eternity (1 Pet 1:5)
2. Jesus’ resurrection was an integral part of making us *righteous* before God: God accepted His sacrifice on our behalf and this acceptance was shown and proven by God raising Him from the dead.
 - a. Phil 2:8-11 – His Lordship glorifies the Father
 - b. Phil 3:8-11 – To gain Christ, to *know* Him, to *know* the power of His resurrection (my righteousness is by faith in Him)

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith -¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

3. God’s declaration of Jesus’ righteousness by His resurrection is our declaration of righteous by God if we are “in Christ” (Eph 2:6)
 - a. We are “in Christ” by faith (Phil 3:9)

- ii. This aspect of substitutionary atonement is unique to Christianity...so is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 1. His resurrection proves to us that His substitutionary atonement, Him in our place (becoming sin *for us*, that we would become the righteousness of God; see 2 Cor 5:21), is effective & powerful & accepted by the Father, so that we would believe in Him
 2. The resurrection is our historical proof, not merely of Jesus’ deity or Lordship, but of His redemptive work in our salvation and the security of His promises for all of eternity. Death is no master of Him.

c. It Ensures our Perfect Resurrection Bodies as Well

- i. 1 Cor 6:14, God will raise us up in the same way as He did Jesus

And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

- ii. 2 Cor 4:14, 5:1ff – eternal bodies made for the heavenlies
- iii. Our bodies will not retain the scars from this life
 1. John 20:27 mentions Jesus’ scars on his hands and feet

2. These scars have a purpose of glorifying God as recollections of Jesus' work of redemption. They proclaim His gospel.
3. He does not seem to retain the scars from the horrific beatings that he took, however. He has an incorruptible and perfect body, but with the memories of his redemptive work.

Conclusion:

So what's the big deal about the resurrection of Jesus? Jesus lives today and His resurrection from the dead proves that you have a Redeemer who can save you completely! The Father graciously has met your guilt with His grace, so look to Jesus now! Draw near to Him! Depend upon Him alone!

The answer for salvation from this mess that we've made is not to work harder, but to become weak; so weak that we are helpless. We must become failures to succeed in salvation, become helpless to obtain hope, to die to ourselves and our own reputation to become alive with the fresh cool breeze of the wind of redemption and freedom. For it was in the apparent weakness of the cross, in the failure of a sealed tomb, and in bearing the righteous wrath of His Father, that Jesus Christ has won our victory for us where we could not. And we know that God accepted His sacrifice on our behalf because He was raised from the dead to continue our redemption. His weakness was replaced with power, His "failure" was revealed as victory, His helplessness accomplished our hope, and His death brought us into eternal life. Now He sits next to His Father in heaven, ensuring our new life, our innocence before God, and giving us hope of that future day of restoration through the presence of His regenerating Spirit.

My fellow sinners, we all need a Savior today; a Redeemer who can guarantee our acceptance before God; One who can mediate for us and alight our hearts with the newness of life and purity of worship; One who is capable of setting us free and making our lives right with God. This, O friends, is why we need Jesus and the power of His death and His resurrection. He is the one who, by His risen life, regenerates, justifies, and glorifies us...and He's coming again. Tell of the Lord's greatness and wonderful grace! What a Savior!