

## LESSON TEN

# THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

### A. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SALVATION.

Scriptural References:

*"Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" (Acts 2:24).*

*"And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses" (Acts 3:15).*

*"Whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).*

*"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Philippians 3:21).*

The resurrection of Christ is essential to our salvation. Christianity is the only religion that bases its claims of acceptance upon the resurrection of its founder. In the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians the apostle Paul makes Christianity answer for its life and for the literal truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. *"...Then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain...ye are yet in your sins...we are of all men most miserable" (I Corinthians 15:13-19).* All is vain if Christ's body is not raised from the dead. Remove the resurrection from Paul's Gospel and his message is gone. The early church constantly affirmed the resurrection. The apostles preached it in the face of the fiercest opposition.

The resurrection is spoken of more than one hundred times in the New Testament.

If Jesus Christ had remained in the grave, the story of His life and death would have remained buried with him. The New Testament is an effect of Christ's resurrection. The resurrection does not grow out of the story of His life but the beautiful story of Christ's life grew out of the fact of His resurrection. The New Testament is the book of the resurrection.

In other words, the resurrection of Christ's body from the tomb proves the Deity of Jesus and the efficaciousness of the atonement to save sinners. Study the following references: Acts 4:10; Acts 13:30-34; I Peter 1:21-23 and I Corinthians chapter 15.

### B. PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION.

Scriptural References:

*"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6).*

*"Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him" (Mark 16:6).*

The number of the witnesses to the resurrection was many. The weight of their testimony is quite conclusive. Both friends and enemies testify to the resurrection of Christ: the women, the disciples, the angels and the Roman guards.

The soldiers were bribed to tell the story of Him being stolen from the tomb (Matthew 28:11-15). Note verse 13: *"Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept."* If they were asleep, how could they know what took place?

We have the testimony of the angels that Jesus had risen as was foretold (Matthew 28:6, Mark 16:6).

The apostle Paul lists a number of witnesses to the resurrection in the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians: Peter; The twelve; About five hundred brethren; James; The apostles and finally Paul, himself, on the road to Damascus.

### **C. PERSONAL PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION.**

All the proof that we need of the resurrection is the fact that Jesus Christ saves sinners, heals sick bodies, and abides within the hearts of His saints today. He not only has appeared to Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus road, but also to each of His blood washed children on their respective roads. The reality of the resurrection is proven by the reality of His living presence today. We may sing in the words of Rev. Ackley: "You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart." It is possible to experience the power of His resurrection in our lives today. In fact, we must experience this if we are to be members of His church, and in His Kingdom. The resurrection of Christ made the power of the atonement effective.

It took His death, burial and resurrection to provide salvation for us. Likewise, it takes death, burial and resurrection on our part to become recipients of the SALVATION provided for us.

### **D. THE APPEARANCES OF CHRIST AFTER THE RESURRECTION.**

It is necessary to read the account of the resurrection in the four gospels to get the story as it happened. Undoubtedly, His appearances were as follows:

1. The women at the tomb see the angels.
2. The women hurry to tell the disciples. Peter and John lived quite close; the other disciples were a greater distance from the tomb.
3. Peter and John run to the tomb. John, being younger, outruns Peter but stops at the door of the tomb. Peter goes on past John and enters the tomb first.
4. Mary follows returning to the tomb, and lingers there, and sees Jesus.
5. Jesus appears to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
6. Jesus appears to Peter.
7. Jesus appears to the ten apostles with Thomas absent.
8. Jesus appears to the apostles with Thomas present.
9. Jesus appears to the apostles and a multitude on the mount.
10. Jesus appears to the apostles on the shores of Lake Galilee.
11. Jesus appears to James.
12. Jesus appears to the apostles at the ascension.
13. Jesus appears to Paul on the road to Damascus.

LESSON TEN

SELF HELP TEST

A. List the witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus as given in the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
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6. \_\_\_\_\_

B. List the appearances of Jesus after the resurrection in proper order:

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