

# Practical Implications of the Resurrection

Many times when I heard the gospel explained in later years, the resurrection was either omitted altogether or briefly discussed in passing. When I began to share the Christian message with others individually and while preaching, to my shame I often did so without mentioning that Jesus is alive. The resurrection had become an afterthought to the message that Jesus died for our sins.

- *Adrian Warnock, Raised with Christ, p.60*

## [ 1 Corinthians 15 ]

### *Practical Implications for us Today:*

1. The Resurrection Confirms Truth is True
2. The Resurrection Shows Matter Matters
3. The Resurrection Is Intensely Individual
4. The Resurrection Gives Life to Life

## 1. The Resurrection Confirms Truth is True

### *Falsifiability*

*For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

- *Matthew 12:40*

*And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

- *Mark 8:31*

Muslims tell us to follow Islam because only God could have written the Qur'an: "And if ye are in doubt as to what We have revealed from time to time to Our servant [Muhammad], then produce a Sura like thereunto; and call your witnesses or helpers (if there are any) besides Allah, if your (doubts) are true."

- Sura 2:23

"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things."

- Moroni 10:4-5

*So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.*

- John 2:18-22

Reality is re-arranged when Jesus walks into any room.

## **2. The Resurrection Shows Matter Matters**

N.T. Wright does an extensive survey of the non-Jewish thought of the first-century Mediterranean world, both east and west, and reveals that the universal view of the people of that time was that a bodily resurrection was impossible. Why? In Greco-Roman thinking, the soul or spirit was good and the physical and material world was weak, corrupt, and defiling. To them the physical, by definition, was always falling apart and therefore salvation was conceived as liberation from the body. In this worldview resurrection was not only impossible, but totally undesirable.

- Tim Keller, *Reason for God*, p.206

*Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed."*

- John 20:26-29

Make no mistake: if he rose at all it was as His body; if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules reknit, the amino acids rekindle, the Church will fail. Let us not mock God with metaphor, analogy, sidestepping transcendence; making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded credulity of earlier ages; let us walk through the door.

- John Updike

A real resurrection not an escape.

We are embodied souls and ensouled bodies.

### **3. The Resurrection Is Intensely Individual**

*And they [James and John] said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."*

- Mark 10:37

By Jesus' day many Jews had come to hope that some day in the future there would be a bodily resurrection of all the righteous, when God renewed the entire world and removed all suffering and death...The idea of an individual being resurrected, in the middle of history, while the rest of the world continued on burdened by sickness, decay, and death, was inconceivable. If someone had said to any first-century Jew, "So-and-so has been resurrected from the dead!" the response would be, "Are you crazy? How could that be? Has disease and death ended? Is true justice established in the world? Has the wolf lain down with the lamb? Ridiculous!" The very idea of an individual resurrection would have been impossible to imagine to a Jew as to a Greek.

- Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*, p.207

“My question – that which at the age of fifty brought me to the verge of suicide – was the simplest of questions, lying in the soul of every man...a question without an answer to which one cannot live. It was: ‘What will come of what I am doing today or tomorrow? What will come of my whole life? Why should I live, why wish for anything, or do anything?’ It can also be expressed thus: Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?”

- Leo Tolstoy, *A Confession*

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

- *Colossians 3:1-4*

But Christ came into the world not so that we should understand him but so that we should cling to him, so that we simply let him pull us into the unbelievable event of the resurrection, so that we simply have it said to us, said to us in all its incomprehensibility: You have died – and yet you have been raised! You are in darkness – and yet you are in the light. You are afraid – and yet you can be glad. Right next to each other the completely contradictory; right next to each other, just the way the two worlds, our world and the world of God, are right next to each other.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer,  
*Sermon on June 19<sup>th</sup>,  
1932. 7 months before  
Hitler came to power.*

*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened...And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

- *Revelation 20:11-15*

#### 4. The Resurrection Gives Life to Life

ATONEMENT:

### Death of Death in the Death of Christ

RESURRECTION:

### Life of Life in the Life of Christ

*Because I live, you also will live.*

- John 14:19

*“On the third day the friends of Christ coming at daybreak to the place found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but the dawn.”*

- G.K. Chesterton,  
*Everlasting Man*

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

- Romans 8:11

To the huge mass of miseries that almost overwhelms us are added the jests of profane men, which assail our innocence when we, willingly renouncing the allurements of present benefits, seem to strive after a blessedness hidden from us as if it were a fleeting shadow. Finally, above and below us, before us and behind, violent temptations besiege us, which our minds would be quite unable to sustain, were they not freed of earthly things and bound to the heavenly life, which appears to be far away. Accordingly, he alone has fully profited in the gospel who has accustomed himself to continual meditation upon the blessed resurrection.

- John Calvin, *Institutes*,  
*Book 3, Ch. 25, Sec. 1*

*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

- 1 Corinthians 15:22

"He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity; down further still ... (to) the womb...down to the very roots and sea-bed of the Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him"

- C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*,  
Chapter 14

*And what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

- Ephesians 1:19-23

The Christ whom we follow is not a dead prophet like Mohammed. Truly we preach Christ crucified; but we also believe in Christ risen from the dead, in Christ gone up on high, in Christ soon to come a second time. He lived, and He lives as the great God and our Savior. If you are indeed soldiers of such a Captain, throw fear to the winds. Can you be cowards when the Lord of Hosts leads you? Dare you tremble when at your head is the Wonderful, the Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace? The trumpet is already at the lip of the archangel; who will not act like a man?

- Charles Spurgeon

**Pray for Our 3 People**

**Pray for this Special Week**

## **Recommended Books**

- Gary Habermas and Mike Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus.*
- N.T. Wright. *The Resurrection of the Son of God.*
- Mike Licona. *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach*
- Adrian Warnock. *Raised with Christ*