

Resurrection

Sunday, February 21, 2021

“One of the most obvious missing words in the practice of our faith.”

- * Resurrection is literally the “cornerstone of our hope”!!!
- * We can endure whatever comes along...because there is a resurrection!
- * Resurrection is:
 - solution to all evil!
 - the proof of God’s love!
 - the key to a new creation!
 - the result of the New Covenant!
 - the culmination of all of Human History!!!
- * Resurrection is a progressive theology in the New Testament writings!

III. The Greek word from which we get the English word “resurrection” is anastasis.

A. It literally means: “a standing up.”

1. In the first century world it never meant life after death.
2. It was never used to refer to the “after life” as we would say!
3. When talking about “what happens when we die”, they never used the word anastasis!

B. Think about the “point of emphasis” here!

1. They never emphasized an existence in some “afterworld” but rather...they emphasized the “restoration of a condition” of living!
2. If you stop and think about it, the New Testament isn’t

particularly interested in what happens “when people die!”

3. The emphasis is on the resurrection provided by Christ!

C. God cares passionately about making right, that which has been destroyed!

1. Our understanding is so skewed, either culturally or historically, that we do not even understand the word “judgement!”

2. Judgement is actually a “joyous act” as God comes to place things back in His created order.

3. Israel’s God is coming to “sort things out!”

4. God is coming in an action that will make things right!

5. All of this is why we do not fully appreciate RESURRECTION!

IV. Here are some “expressive thoughts” or some inspired writings in the New Testament on resurrection!

A. 1 Corinthians 15:17 (NLT)

17 “And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.”

1. If Jesus was not infused with the life of God as an inaugurator of a resurrected life, then you haven’t been infused with new life either.

2. If you haven’t been infused with new life, you are still dead in your sins!

Romans 8:11 (NLT)

11 “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.”

B. 1 Peter 1:3 (NLT)

3 "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation."

1. We see again the utter importance of Christ's resurrection!
2. While the world, and even different parts of the Church debate a "literal resurrection," we see the absolute necessity of it!
3. "Because God raised Jesus, we can live in that hope too!"

C. 2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT)

15 "He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

1. This resurrection is obviously the key to "this new life!"
2. Resurrection is the ONLY WAY to renewal!
3. "No longer live for themselves"...let that sink in!!!
4. By this is how we "become a new person!"

D. Romans 6:4 (NLT)

4 "For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

1. Let's focus on this statement for just a minute!
2. Is the point baptism, being buried, Christ's resurrection, or...THE POWER OF GOD RAISING US TO NEW LIFE!