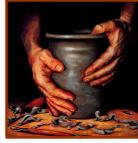


The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Jesus: Risen Just As He Said

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Sunday, April 16, 2017

There is not a more life-changing theme than resurrection from the dead. It is the deepest yearning of everyone and everything that lives. God gave us a foretaste of its awesome significance when He raised Jesus the Christ from the dead. His resurrection is the promise that creation and all people who trust in Him will be made new and experience the glorious presence of God forever.

THREE CONCEPTS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH

- **Resuscitation** - Bringing someone back to this life by physical or miraculous means. The person eventually dies again.
- **Reincarnation** - Coming back to life in a different body or form of life based on how well one lived in a previous lifetime. The goal is to eventually be freed from the need to come back, and therefore live forever in a disembodied state.
- **Resurrection** - Coming back to life as the same person, but in a different, immortal body, incapable of being overcome by the elements and forces of the world.

Jesus' body showed evidence of this by slipping through His burial wrappings without disturbing them. In doing so, He accomplished the greatest miracle of all times.

THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF THE RESURRECTION

The entirety of the Christian faith stands or falls on this one central idea. If it could be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that resurrection is not possible (and therefore Jesus was not resurrected) Christianity would die and immediate death.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

¹²But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? ¹³For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. ¹⁵And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have

said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. ¹⁶And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. NLT

EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION

- Believers say Jesus is alive, but cannot produce a living body.
This has been the criticism coming from skeptics ever since the death of Jesus.
- Unbelievers say He is dead, but could never produce a body.
Logic, drawn from science, dictates that we accept the fact that the dead stay dead.

What, then, do we say of the millions of perfectly sane, rational people from all walks of life who claim that this "ridiculous" book has radically changed their lives forever? The truth is that many of these same people are willing to give their lives up to torture and death rather than renounce their faith. This should speak loudly to all who refuse to believe in Jesus and His Word.

We have no physical proofs, but Jesus removed this as a barrier when He declared "**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.**"

While we have no ironclad proof, we do have very solid legal evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. This comes in two forms: eyewitness and circumstantial.

- **Eyewitness evidence**
 - The four gospels and Paul's writings.
 - His appearances several times after the resurrection:

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

³I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

- **Circumstantial evidence**
 - Jews changed their worship day
 - The disciples went from hiding to openly proclaiming His resurrection
 - The healing of incurable diseases in His name

Surveys have reportedly shown that a higher percentage of people in the legal profession have become Christians than in any other single occupation.

Conclusion

You can have a mountain of evidence, and someone who does not want to believe will not. When it is all said and done, it is not the evidence that causes people to believe. It is an experience of the risen Jesus!