

Eternal Life Unveiled

The Power of the Empty Tomb

Introduction. C.S. Lewis said, “God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man.” If God never came down on the earth, then no one would have the right to become sons of God (John 1:12). Furthermore, if Christ never died and rose again, then mankind couldn’t be forgiven of their sins and have the possibility of future glory (1 Peter 1:3-5).

While the world celebrates the resurrection today, we don’t hold this day any higher than all the other Sundays of the year. The Lord’s Supper is a lovely memorial of Christ’s death, and we treat it as something very special every time we meet.

Paul had a beautiful statement in Philippians 3:7-11. The “power of the resurrection” in v. 10 is the power of a raised life. Let’s look at what the resurrection accomplishes for all of those who trust and obey Him.

I. The Seal of a Finished Work

- A. John 2:19.
- B. Luke 24:44-48.
- C. Acts 2:22-24.
- D. Acts 13:29-30.

II. The Sign of a Glorious Triumph

- A. Luke 24:25-26.
- B. Hebrews 2:14-15.
- C. Ephesians 4:8.
- D. Romans 8:11.

III. The Pledge of a Coming Resurrection

- A. John 5:25.
- B. John 14:1-3.
- C. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 42-45.
- D. Philippians 3:20-21.
- E. 1 Peter 5:8-11.

IV. The Certainty of a Future Judgment

- A. Acts 17:30-31.
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11.
- C. Revelation 20:11-15.

Conclusion. There’s power in the resurrection. So much comes back to the resurrection. We need to be impressed by the resurrection. Many religious groups give lip service to the resurrection, but they don’t believe the miracle.

As we conclude our study today, there’s three points that I need to impress on you. First, you must believe the resurrection (Acts 17:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:12). The Corinthians doubted the resurrection only about five or six years after the founding of the church. Kids, when you get out on your own, there’s a lot of belief you can give up

in just a few years. Second, you must tell others of the resurrection. The women declared the resurrection (Matthew 28:8). The disciples declared the resurrection (Luke 24:32-35). But remember, telling always comes at a cost (Acts 4:18; 5:40; 17:32). Third, you must be changed by the resurrection. You may be sitting in the pew thinking, "Yeah, I believe in the resurrection." But is it changing you? Paul was baptized after He saw the resurrected Lord (Acts 9:17-18). Jesus was worthy, and now He's ruling at the right hand of God (Revelation 5:8-14). He is Lord (John 20:28) and Master (Luke 9:33). A lot of people want the "Jesus on a cross" part but they don't want the "Lord and Master" part. They don't want to obey. You need to obey. Paul had to die to some things to experience this power (Philippians 3:13-14).

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