

The Doctrine of the Resurrection

The RESURRECTION is a Foundational Truth

1. Cornerstone of our faith towards God
Heb 6:1-2 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
2. Resurrection of Jesus was well documented (summed up in 1 Cor 15:5-11)
3. The resurrection is a key part of Christian faith because it signifies that God was fully satisfied with the work of Jesus in dying on the cross to save mankind
4. Paul and others preached the resurrection of Jesus and of the saints of God. It is also important because it foreshadows the resurrection of all Christian believers.
5. Most importantly the fact that Jesus Christ was resurrected to an imperishable state means that he lives for ever. As such, there is a 'man in heaven' at the current time. He is the advocate for us before the throne of God. He is also with us by his Spirit in this world.
6. In both the case of Jesus Christ and everyone else's resurrection the bible makes it clear that the resurrected body is changed from the original. This is because the human body in its current form is understood to be weak and frail. However, the resurrected person lives for ever.

Paul teaches and preaches the Resurrection

- Importance of the Resurrection
1 Cor 15:1-4 Paul's gospel
1 Cor 15:5-11 Jesus seen as alive after His death by many
- Consequences of Denying the Resurrection
1 Cor 15:12-19 If Christ is not risen they we have no hope
- The Hope of the Believer
1 Cor 15: 20-34
- The Resurrection Body is different
1 Cor 15:35-50
- The Believer's Victory in Christ
1 Cor 15:51-58

Apostle Paul refers to a seed and its tree.

This life's body is like a seed, and the resurrection body is like the tree which comes from it. From this analogy Paul illustrates two important principles:

1. That the seed must fall into the ground to 'die' in order for the next life to be possible ('flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.' (1Cor 15:50), and
2. That the new body bears little resembles to what we have now. Resurrected Christians are not zombies but completely new people. ('The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.' 1Co 15:42-44).

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Old Testament scriptures point to the resurrection of not only Jesus but of the dead (ALL dead)

- Job 19: 26 - "after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God"
- Isaiah 26: 19 - "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise"
- Daniel 12:2 Daniel's vision, where a mysterious angelic figure tells Daniel, "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake; some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt."
- Ezekiel 37:1-14 Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones being restored as a living army: a metaphorical prophecy that the house of Israel would one day be gathered from the nations, out of exile, to live in the land of Israel once more.
- Ps 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
- 1 Samuel 2: 6 - The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. (prayer of Hannah)
- Ezekiel 37: 12 - "I will open your graves, and cause you to come up"

Jesus taught about the Resurrection of the dead

Lu 20:33 "Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife does she become? For all seven had her as wife." And Jesus answered and said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; "nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him."

Joh 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Joh 11:24-27 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

The apostles gave witness to the resurrection

Ac 4:33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Ro 6:5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection

Jesus lives forevermore and so will we!

Everyone except Jesus who were raised from the dead were 'resuscitated' –they died again or they will die again. Death is the final enemy of God to be conquered.

Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.