

**"The Encouragement in the Resurrection"**

**Introduction:** Today we come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the greatest event in the history of the world. If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, then we are wasting our time by being here. Our eternal destiny completely depends upon the resurrection. There have been many who have denied the resurrection, but the Bible lists many evidences that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day.

**Acts 1:1-3**

*The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,*

<sup>2</sup> *Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:*

<sup>3</sup> *To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

The Bible gives to us many infallible proofs of the resurrection. Probably the greatest proof of the resurrection would be the lives of the Apostles. One of the qualifications of an Apostle was to have been an eyewitness to Jesus Christ after His resurrection. A close examination of the lives of these men will tell you that Jesus was resurrected. I say this because no man would have endured what they endured for a dead man. If Jesus had died and stayed in the grave these men would have never went through the sufferings which they lived and died the deaths which they died. Many of them were martyred for their faith. People just do not do that for a dead man!

Now before we get to what we are going to consider today I want to explain something to you. Because Jesus was resurrected, we are now promised a resurrection for our lives also.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**

<sup>20</sup> *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

<sup>21</sup> *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*

<sup>22</sup> *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

<sup>23</sup> *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

When God created man, He created man to live forever. But man sinned and when sin entered into the human race man became corrupt and he began to decline toward death. Therefore, God could not allow man to live forever in a sinful body.

**Genesis 3:22-24**

*22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

*23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

*24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

Now let us get to what we are going to consider today. I want to raise a question for this morning and then answer the question.

➤ **What does the resurrection mean for me today?**

Today we are going to look at a few of the practical benefits of the resurrection for our lives today.

**1. Comfort in the deepest sorrow.**

**Notice John 20:1-11**

Mary was heartbroken as she came to the tomb that morning. She loved Jesus for He had set her free from the demons. She had surrendered all to follow Him and now He was dead. Her heart was crushed under the weight of sorrow.

**Notice John 20:12-17**

Her sorrow was soon turned to joy. Jesus was alive!

**Application:**

Have you ever lost someone very close to you who was a believer? Let me give you a few points of encouragement. The Lord is close to you as He was to Mary when your heart is broken.

**Psalm 34:17-19**

*17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*

*18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

*19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

Because we have a LIVING Savior we then can rely on His comfort. There is no other religion that has this claim. The people they worship are all dead. Our Savior is alive, and He can comfort us when we are in the deepest valleys of life.

## **2. Hope in the face of death.**

Because Jesus is resurrected, we then have the hope of uniting with our loved ones who have died.

### **1 Corinthians 15:16-19**

*16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:*

*17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*

*18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.*

*19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

If Jesus has not been raised, then our loved ones that have died are perished. There is no hope for them and there would be no hope for us of ever being united with them again.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

*14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

*15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

*16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

<sup>18</sup> *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

**3. Forgiveness for our failures.**

**Notice Mark 16:1-7**

The angel's message was to go tell the disciples and PETER. There was a special message for Peter. WHY? Let us remember that he had failed the Lord the night Jesus was arrested. He needed comfort and encouragement. We must understand that he was broken over his denials and he probably thought he would never get another opportunity to stand for the Lord again. But he was wrong. There was a hope.

Let me show you a report which the Emmaus disciples gave to the other disciples.

**Luke 24:33-34**

<sup>33</sup> *And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,*

<sup>34</sup> *Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.*

There was a special meeting that had taken place after the resurrection between Jesus and Peter. Peter needed to know that there were second chances.

**Application:**

Let me remind you that if you have failed the Lord it is not the end. First of all, He intercedes for us.

**Hebrews 7:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*

<sup>25</sup> *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

<sup>26</sup> *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*

<sup>27</sup> *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*

He is our High Priest and He constantly intercedes for us.

**1 John 1:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

<sup>8</sup> *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

<sup>9</sup> *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

#### 4. Stability in the midst of chaos.

##### Notice Luke 24:13-32

Here we see two disciples who were very confused about what had taken place. They believed they had found the Messiah, but the government and the religious leaders had put Him to death. They did not know this was all part of the plan of God. But as Jesus walked with them, he opened their eyes, and they were able to see the Truth in the midst of the chaos.

##### Notice Luke 24:33-35

In the midst of a corrupt society, they now had a living hope which they could share with others.

##### Application:

We are living in the midst of a sinful and corrupt society. We see what used to be right proclaimed as wrong and what was wrong is now proclaimed as right.

##### Romans 1:28-32

<sup>28</sup> *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

<sup>29</sup> *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

<sup>30</sup> *Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

<sup>31</sup> *Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

<sup>32</sup> *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

But we have a living Savior who guides us in all Truth.

**John 16:7, 13**

<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

<sup>13</sup> Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

We also have a living Savior that promises us a better home.

**John 14:1-3**

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

<sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

**Conclusion:**

Because our Savior lives, we have:

1. **Comfort in sorrow.**
2. **Hope in the face of death.**
3. **Forgiveness in our failures.**
4. **Stability in the midst of chaos.**