

The Doctrinal Substance of Christ's Resurrection (or "What Does it Mean?")

Last Week (Did it really happen and does it really matter?)

- Empty Tomb; Eyewitness Accounts; Every Changed Life = historical, evidential and defensible
- Christianity stands or falls with the Resurrection
 - If Christ is not risen then our faith is useless and we are still in our sins—but **He did rise in glory!**

The Doctrinal Substance of Christ's Resurrection

- **Justification + Assurance + Glorification**

Salvation (our being saved from the penalty of our sins) is dependent upon **both** the Cross **and** Resurrection of Christ

- **Christ was delivered up because of our transgressions, and raised because of our justification.** –Romans 4:25
- Justification is the declaration made by God that we are not guilty but righteous before Him through faith in Jesus
- **Cross** = substitutionary death; paid in full
- **Resurrection** = ratification of full payment; approval of Christ's righteousness (in glory)
- = We are declared **both** not guilty **and** righteous = justification (through union)

Because He lives, Christ is able to apply His work of salvation to our lives, so we have **assurance**

Jonathan Edwards on Romans 4:25: "[It means], delivered for our offenses, and raised again that He might see to the application of His sufferings to our justification, and that He might plead them for our justifying."¹

- Hebrews 7:24-25 (NLT)
But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.
- Romans 8:34 (NLT)
Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

The steps God takes in the application of our redemption:

- Romans 8:30 (NASB)
These whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

The Doctrine of Future Glorification

- "Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunited them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like His own." –Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 828

1 Corinthians 15:21-23

- Adam = sin and death → Christ = justification and new life
- Christ as the **first fruit** = first to be truly resurrected (not revived; not reincarnated)
- When He comes back = we who belong to Him will be raised in the same way

1 Corinthians 15:35-41

- Continuity and discontinuity
 - Wheat becomes only wheat (continuity); but it is entirely different (discontinuity) (Cf. **38^a = the new body**)
 - Answers the question: "Will we recognize and be recognized in heaven?"
- It will be this body that is resurrected—but it will be different when it is resurrected
 - This body is renewed; transformed; cf. a seed is transformed; John 2:19)

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

- Verse 42 = **earthly bodies that die → a body that lives forever (perishable → imperishable)**
- Verse 43 = buried in **brokenness → raised in glory and buried in weakness → raised strength**
- Verse 44 = buried as **natural human bodies → raised as spiritual bodies**
 - **Natural human body** ≠ merely physical but rather **dominated by human nature** (sinful flesh)
 - **Spiritual body** ≠ immaterial (we are talking about bodies—Christ's resurrection was physical)

- **Spiritual body** = a human body and human life that is **dominated by the Spirit of God**
= Perfectly suited for fellowship with and obedience to God
= Finally, fully consistent w/ the character + activity of the HS because our salvation is complete
- **Spiritual body** = Completely ruled by the Spirit of God **rather than** the sinful nature of humanity

Romans 7:18-19 & 24-25 (NLT)

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in **my sinful nature**. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

Oh, what a miserable person I am! **Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

1 Corinthians 15:45-50

This is glorious and this (and only this) is the hope we have in Christ

- Materialist = body is merely worm food cease to exist
- Mythical view of ancients = devolve into ghostly shadows of our selves
- Reincarnation = souls continually return dressed up in other bodies to atone for sins of past lives
- Plato = body is merely an evil prison that we escape at death
- Hindus = body is merely an illusion and what survives is an impersonal cosmic consciousness
 - But you see' matter is not evil, it is part of God's good creation (though corrupted by sin)—therefore God's goal in redemption is not to destroy it but to **renew it in glory in glorious resurrection**
 - **ONLY IN CHRIST DO WE BECOME GREATER AFTER DEATH THAN WE WERE BEFORE!**
 - Only in Christianity is our broken, lowly, perishable, corruptible bodies transformed into glorious, forever, imperishable, strong, spirit dominated bodies!

Philippians 3:20-21(NIV)

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, **will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.**

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

- Isaiah 26:19 (NLT)
But those who die in the Lord will live; their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth **will rise up and sing for joy!** For your life-giving light will fall like dew on your people in the place of the dead!
- Psalm 16:9-11 (NLT)
No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave. You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.
- John 11:25-26 (NLT) (**In Christ Alone**)
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14 + 16 (NLT)
For **since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again**, we also believe **that when Jesus returns**, God will bring back with him the believers who have died... and the dead in Christ shall rise...

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Part of why it is never useless is because, again, God is not going to destroy all of creation, **but rather renew it in glory** in glorious resurrection!

- **Romans 8:18-25** and **Revelation 21:1-6**

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NLT)

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 and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy...