

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

No. 49

March 2016

The Resurrection

Introduction

It is possible for a believer to hold to teachings which some may judge as incorrect, such as, having the Lord's Supper once a month instead of weekly, will the church go through the tribulation or not? Is there a future for Israel or not? While we may differ in our understandings, that does not effect one's salvation. However, when it concerns the person and work of the Lord, there is no room for error. We hold to the truth of:

- a) The once for all offering of the Lord to be the propitiation for the sins of the "whosoever"
- b) The physical death of the Lord at Calvary
- c) His sufferings for sins and his being forsaken by God for the three hours of darkness
- d) His burial
- e) His bodily resurrection.

The resurrection of the Lord is an historical fact as recorded in the gospel and proven by the evidences of transformed men, and lives and events marks Christianity as unique, being the only "religion" with a head who died and rose again, and effects all humanity. The doctrines which flow from His resurrection and fullness of it is revealed by the Spirit in the epistles of the New Testament.

This meditation is my musings on the resurrection of the Lord, as I seek to consider the following questions:

- 1) What did the resurrection of the Lord mean to God, and display of God?
- 2) What did the resurrection of the Lord mean to the Holy Spirit?
- 3) What did the resurrection of the Lord mean to Christ?
- 4) What did the resurrection of the Lord mean for Satan?
- 5) What does the resurrection of the Lord mean to the believer?
- 6) What does the resurrection of the Lord mean to the sinner?

What did the resurrection of the Lord mean to God, and display of God?

- 1) It was a display of His glory, indicative of His power (Rom. 6:4).
 - a) The Holy Spirit caused Paul to pen it so beautifully: "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:19-23).

- 2) It was the fulfilment and pledge of His purposes as revealed in:
 - a) The Old Testament prophecies:
 - i) “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption” (Psalms 16:10)
 - ii) “O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave” (Psalms 30:3)
 - b) The Old Testament pictures in the types:
 - i) The feast of firstfruits (Lev. 23:10). On that day the priest waved the sheaf of firstfruits before the Lord. It was a pictorial prophecy of the resurrection of the Lord as the Firstfruits (1 Cor. 15:20, 23).
 - ii) The second bird in the cleaning of the leper (Lev. 14:6, 9). Note the word “living bird”, it was let loose into the open field with the evidence of death upon it (the blood of the dead bird), symbolic of the Lord, alive but having the evidence of death still on His body (Jn. 20:20, 27).

[What did the resurrection of the Lord mean to the Holy Spirit?](#)

He was able in righteousness to endorse the holiness of His life and who He was. Paul wrote: “Jesus Christ our Lord . . . declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom. 1:3-4).

[What did the resurrection of the Lord mean to Christ?](#)

The fidelity of His parabolic statements. Having cleaned the temple the Jews asked for a sign for His doing such a thing (Matt. 16:1). The Lord answered: “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (Jn. 2:19-22 - He was speaking of the temple of His body). When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them, “and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said” (Jn. 2:22).

[What did the resurrection of the Lord mean for Satan?](#)

Often we consider the resurrection of the Lord to be little other than a physical or bodily resurrection, but it was more than that. The background needs to be considered and that is, “What would have happened if Christ had not died”? Consider, if after He cried, “It is finished” He then came down from the cross. “What would have been finished and what would not have been finished? Thankfully, the work of suffering as the penalty bearer for our sins would have been finished, but it would have been a salvation which did not sever the condemnation which Adam brought us into, neither would it have secured our justification or the resurrection of any human being. That in itself would have meant there would have been no judgment! Christ had to physically die, but His death was more than a physical death, it was an entrance into the fortress of Satan. Christ had to die and rise again to defeat Satan. The ancient writer wrote: “that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Heb 2:14). Paul expands on this for when concerning Christ he wrote: “Having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly” (Col. 2:15), and then expands it even further in Ephesians, “When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men” (Eph. 4:8). Satan is a defeated foe and this will be fully manifested in a coming day when He, because of being raised from the dead and defeating him, will cast him into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10).

[What does the resurrection of the Lord mean to the believer?](#)

- 1) The assurance of His salvation and physical resurrection:
 - a) Paul wrote two great passages on the subject of the happenings when the Lord comes to the air to take us to Himself (1 Cor. 15 and 1 Thess. 4:14-17). However, there is a difference which can be easily missed. First Corinthians fifteen is divided into two major sections, verses 1-49 is taken up with the subject of the resurrection and the resurrection body. However, this would have caused a major question in the minds of the saints which is stated in verse 50. The argument is as follows, “Since the dead will be given a new body and since flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, what is going to happen to those who are alive when the Lord comes?” This he answers in the following verses.
 - i) First Corinthians, in the latter part, deals with those who are alive when the Lord comes.
 - ii) This poses a question, “What will happen to the dead saints?” Paul answers this in 1 Thess. 4:14-17.
 - c) In reviewing 1 Cor. 15 Paul presents the stupendous evidences that the Lord is raised, and by a reversal of thought, what the consequences are if He is not raised. He writes, and I summarize: “Your faith is vain (useless), ye are yet in your sins, those who have died are perished, we have no hope” (1 Cor. 15:17-19). Then he states: “Christ is risen from the dead”, and more than that historical fact, “He is the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Cor. 15:20, 23).
 - d) I submit that as the living rise with those who have fallen asleep, together they will cry: “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Cor. 15:55).

2) 1 Thess. 4:14-17

- a) In reading this passage the heart is stirred by its wonder. “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” (1 Thess. 4:16). What a sight that would be to behold all the saints from Pentecost who have died to that moment all raised, and in so doing, begin their homeward journey, leaving the restrictive bonds of death, corruption and earth, then we who are alive joining them in the skies. Untold billions of saints, Peter, Paul, Martin Luther, Billy Sunday, and you and I, all rising to meet the Lord in the air. No power of earth will restrain us, no political decree will prevent us. All by the grace of God and through the fulness of the sacrifice of Christ, rise to enter the celestial portals of eternal bliss. Well may we sing with rapturous delight, the words of Charles H. Gabriel:

When all my labours and trials are o'er
And I am safe on that beautiful shore
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore
Will through the ages be glory for me.

*O that will be glory for me
Glory for me, glory for me
When by His grace I shall look on His face
That will be glory, be glory for me*

When, by the gift of His infinite grace
I am accorded in heaven a place
Just to be there and to look on His face
Will through the ages be glory for me.

Friends will be there I have loved long ago
Joy like a river around me will flow
Yet just a smile from my Saviour, I know
Will through the ages be glory for me.

[What does the resurrection of the Lord mean to the sinner?](#)

While the assurance of the resurrection brings hope to the believer, it is the total opposite to the unbeliever. For them it assures a judgment and conscious bodily affliction for all eternity. God has decreed: “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31). Death is not the end of existence for God says: “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). It is irrelevant if the corpse is buried, cremated, or in the seas, every unsaved individual will be made to stand at the Great White Throne. Frightening and solemn are the words of Holy Scripture which I now quote: “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Rev. 20:11-15).

[Conclusion](#)

To any who are unsaved, or have relatives who are unsaved, this is reality, for Christ is risen from the dead. If an individual has never accepted Christ as the only way of salvation, it is our desire and prayer that in simple childlike faith you accept the Lord while there is still time.

... Rowan Jennings



If you don't wish to receive future Newsletters, please send us an email and we will take your name off the Mailing List.

If you change your e-mail address, please forward your new one so that we can update our Mailing List.