

J.J.

JESUS CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD. SO now WHAT?

INTRODUCTION :

The Bible says that when Jesus died, he was buried in a brand new tomb that was owned by Joseph of Arimathea. (Matthew 27:57-60) The Sunday School teacher was teaching about his and pointed out that Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb. One student said that she knew why. "Jesus only had to use it for three days."

Resurrection : it's a unique word, it means "the act of rising from the dead"

What is the difference between resuscitation and resurrection?

***Resuscitation** is you came back from the dead but with the same body that will perish again. *John 11: 38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said.*

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

... 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

***Resurrection** is you rise up from the dead unto eternal life.

Daniel 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

1 Corinthians 15: 42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;

For the past Resurrection Sundays, we have shown you that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is true, verifiable and historical event.

***Quote :** This is from Sir Lionel Luckhoo, identified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most successful attorney in the world concluded after an exhaustive analysis about the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ : "I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt."

Quote : "The resurrection is one of the best documented events in the history of man." – Simon Greenleaf - He authored the classic "A Treatise on the Law of Evidence". Simon Greenleaf was the man responsible for making the Harvard Law School popular. He is well known in the States. He is described as one of the brilliant man in America when it comes to legal affairs

Quote : The volume of historical facts and evidences regarding our Lord's resurrection is so overwhelming that it takes more faith NOT to believe in the resurrection.

Important : But where do you really go to prove that the resurrection is true? THE BIBLE. IT'S THE WORD OF GOD!

We know **JESUS CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD. SO NOW WHAT?**

This statement doesn't mean to be disrespectful but it was meant for us to think. Again, I don't want our faith to be spoonfed by a certain special day (though there's nothing wrong to celebrate) or because we are just following the crowd. Our faith must come from here, inside our own convictions.

You will see in Facebook, there are a lot of status updates or posts stating "Christ is risen" "Jesus is alive", yes we know that already. But the question is, SO WHAT? SO WHAT NOW? Show one Marie's Facebook post :

Remember, when I taught you what real "belief" is. It's not just about saying, you believe in something but it's about how it changed your life.

Illustration : I was watching a short film based on a true story which featured Jeremy Lin helping a new immigrant student coming from Burma. What got me is a scene when he just entered his new class, he doesn't speak much English and then the teacher asked him to sit down. On his way to his chair, the teacher dropped her books and the boy immediately ducked. It's because he came from a part of Burma which was war torn and any loud noise meant that it might be a bomb, grenade or gunshot and his natural reaction was to duck to any loud noise.

It's the same with belief coming from the heart. If you truly believe that Jesus rose from the dead, there must be a dramatic change in your life, in how you act, in your lifestyle and in how you react.

That's why the Bible says :

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Biblical Illustration : The disciples were a band of coward and weak people who were afraid for their own lives because of their association with Jesus but when they saw Jesus rose from the dead, they were willing to give their own lives preaching that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. It's 180 degrees. In fact, all of them died a martyr's death. Paul himself who was described in the Bible who hunted and wanted to kill disciples of Christ but when he saw the "risen Christ", suddenly became a follower of Christ and its greatest missionary.

Brothers and sisters, there's a reason why the name of this church is Disciples of Christ Fellowship. It's because we're not here to follow a pastor because he's cool and young. We're not here to follow a church because it's so modern and hip. In short, we're not here to follow a crowd or follow man, **we're here because we're following JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD WHO HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.**

JESUS CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD. SO NOW WHAT?

Acts 2: ²²“People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. ²³But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. ²⁴But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. ²⁵King David said this about him:

‘I see that the Lord is always with me.

I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

*²⁶No wonder my heart is glad,
and my tongue shouts his praises!
My body rests in hope.*

*²⁷For you will not leave my soul among the dead
or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.*

*²⁸You have shown me the way of life,
and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’*

²⁹“Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. ³⁰But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. ³¹David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave. ³²“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. ³³Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. ³⁴For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said,

*‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit in the place of honor at my right hand*

*³⁵until I humble your enemies,
making them a footstool under your feet.”’*

³⁶“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

³⁷Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

Pray

Background : This is the first sermon of the church. As mentioned earlier, the disciples were hiding in fear and then our Lord Jesus Christ showed Himself to them and the Holy Spirit came upon them and now they have the boldness to proclaim that Jesus rose from the dead and showed what's the significance of this.

1. Christ's resurrection proves the authenticity of God's Word.

²² "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. ²³ But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. ²⁴ But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. ²⁵ King David said this about him: 'I see that the Lord is always with me.

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²⁷ For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.

²⁸ You have shown me the way of life,

Peter was telling the crowd that Jesus is the Holy One that David was talking in Psalm 16:8-11 who will die but will rise from the dead. Look at the succeeding verses.

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Biblical Illustration : When Jesus died, two disciples were walking on the road called Emmaus and was very discouraged because they followed Christ thinking He was the Messiah, Saviour because of the miracles he did and yet he died a criminal's death and now they're perplexed because they heard that Jesus body was gone from the tomb. Jesus suddenly walked with them but they did not recognize him. But what did Jesus do?

Luke 24: ²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶ Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" ²⁷ Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

The Bible in the Old Testament was talking about the Messiah will suffer, die and rise from the dead as predicted by the Bible.

Even Jesus stated that he will die and rise from the dead. (Who in their right mind will tell people that you will die and in three days rise from the dead? Unless you're crazy or unless you are the Son of God.)

Matthew 16 : ²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

We should believe the Bible as true and God’s Word and not just parts of it.

Story : Little Johnny was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. “Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcement. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and saved the Israelites.

“Is that really what your teacher taught you?” “Well, no, Mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you’d never believe it.”

Application : If the resurrection of Christ proves that the Bible is God’s Word, then we can be assured that whatever promises that are in here, God will fulfill.

God says, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” Or “God shall provide all your needs” or the promise that HE WILL COME BACK AGAIN.

And since this is God’s Word, we should follow it’s commands. “Don’t worry”, “Rejoice always, pray continuously, give thanks in all circumstances” “Be holy as your Father in heaven is holy”

Our Lord’s Resurrection proves that the Bible is true and never wrong.

Quote : Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them. - Anonymous

2. Christ’s resurrection proves that He is God’s Son

³² “God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. ³³ Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. ³⁴ For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit in the place of honor at my right hand
³⁵ until I humble your enemies,
making them a footstool under your feet.”

³⁶ “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

Jesus has always said that He is God and that He is the Son of God.

John 10:30 I and the Father are one.

John 8:58 “Very truly I tell you”, Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am”

Now if Jesus claims He is God and then He died and was buried and remained buried and never rose from the dead, then He is just a man like you and me.

But because He rose from the dead, it proves that He is in control of everything and has power over everything even death.

John 10: ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

The Good News revolves around Jesus' resurrection :

Romans 1:1 This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News.² God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. ³ The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, ⁴ and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Illustration : There is a mountain in Italy where a lot of religious people go on a pilgrimage during Lenten Season to do the Station of the Cross. It's a beautiful path where the grass are trimmed and the stations were cleared and cleaned. But one pilgrim, after the last station, (The Burial of Christ), saw a pathway and followed it. It was covered in thick thicket and thorns and no one seems to be passing this way but at the end of it he discovered that there was another station depicting “The Empty Tomb”. A lot of Christians often times emphasize the death and suffering of Christ but the good news is completed only with His resurrection.

Application : If the resurrection proves that Jesus Christ is God

- **We should trust Him**

Illustration : Isn't that what he's always telling the disciples. He repeatedly told them He was the Son of God and showed it in the miracles and etc. But when a storm came in, it shows how much they believed on what He is saying because they panicked and Jesus said, “Where is your faith?” Jesus Christ is God and He is alive and He is there for us watching over us, interceding for us, praying for us, helping us, giving us strength!

- **We should obey Him**

If we truly believe Jesus is Lord, then we should obey Him and serve Him.

- **We should serve one another.**

John 13: 13 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

- **We should worship Him.**

Isn't that what happened to Thomas, he didn't believe that Jesus rose from the dead. But when he saw the risen Christ, he exclaimed.

John 20: 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

28 “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

3. Christ’s resurrection proves that God’s salvation is now complete.

36 “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

Note : the “made” here doesn’t mean “created” but means *poeio* “to cause”, to declare.
e.g. I’m making you president of the company

The Bible has always said that the Messiah is the Christ, (chosen one) to save us from our sin.
Even John the Baptist, when he saw Jesus said, *“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)*

The Bible shows that it takes blood to forgive our sins.

Any man can come and say, I am the Messiah and die on the cross. Even you can do that, if you are crazy enough to believe it. But what will make me sure who is the ONE. It’s the one whom God raised from the dead.

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification

What is justification? It seems that there was a man in England who put his Rolls-Royce on a boat and went across to the continent to go on a holiday. While he was driving around Europe, something happened to the motor of his car. He cabled the Rolls-Royce people back in England and asked, "I'm having trouble with my car; what do you suggest I do?" Well, the Rolls-Royce people flew a mechanic over! The mechanic repaired the car and flew back to England and left the man to continue his holiday. As you can imagine, the fellow was wondering, "How much is this going to cost me?" So when he got back to England, he wrote the people a letter and asked how much he owed them. He received a letter from the office that read: "Dear Sir: There is no record anywhere in our files that anything ever went wrong with a Rolls-Royce." That is justification. – Dr. Roy Gustafson

Good news : We are not guilty before God anymore because God was satisfied with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Follow this : He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. His resurrection is God saying, "Yes Son, I'm satisfied with what you did."

Quote : The Resurrection is God’s Amen! to Christ’s statement, “It is finished.” – S. Lewis Johnson

That’s why Paul is saying :

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.

But because Jesus rose from the dead, you know that God is saying, “yes, I accept his death as punishment for the world’s sin, for your sin” And we need to accept it by faith.

That’s why the people who heard Peter’s sermon say :

³⁷ Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

And what did Peter reply?

³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Repentance means admitting to God that you are a sinner and that you are turning to God and saying, “Lord thank you for what Jesus Christ did on the cross for me. Because of His death on the cross, I know he took already my punishment that was meant for me and because of His resurrection, I know you accept that.”

As Christians, we are all the same when it comes to being sinners. We are guilty of pride, of lust, of sloth, of greed and etc. but our difference is that WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN! WE KNOW WE ARE NOW RIGHT BEFORE GOD BECAUSE JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD. IT’S THE SIGN THAT TRULY IT IS FINISHED! WE DON’T OWE GOD ANYTHING ANYMORE! PRAISE THE LORD! PRAISE THE LORD! IT IS BECAUSE JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD AND GOD IS SATISFIED.

Jesus Christ rose from the dead. So what now?

It proves that the Bible is God’s Word is authentic and can be relied on.

It proves that Jesus is the Son of God

It proves that God’s salvation is complete and He has forgiven you.

Take out the resurrection and the Christian as Paul says, WE ARE TO BE MOST PITIED. But, we know Christ rose from the dead!

The question is how can you get that forgiveness?

Romans 10 : 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

S.G.D.