



Date: April 20th, 2014

Title: Easter 2014

“But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!” 1 Cor. 15:13-18

1. The problem of sin and the resultant separation from God in our lives is the issue at hand.
 - a. The world we live in is not the world God intended us to live.
 - i. Gen. 3:17-19, “*Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.*”
 - ii. Michael Card - Why? “*And why did there have to be thorny crown pressed upon His head it should have been the royal one made of jewels and gold instead, it had to be a crown of thorns because in this life that we live for all who seek to love a thorn is all the world has to give.*”
 - iii. All creation groans... (cf. Gen. 2:16-17, Rom. 8:19-22)
 - b. Relationships are permanently handicapped because of sin.
2. Jesus’ death
 - a. They did not recognize their Messiah. (cf. Is. 53:2-11)
 - b. The choice between terrorist (*lestes and sicarii*) and king; the conflict of solutions. They rejected the true King and chose a terrorist, confessing they had no king but Cæsar. Luke 23:18-19, “*And they all cried out at once, saying, ‘Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas’ – who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder.*”
 - c. The work and triumph of His crucifixion,
 - i. Cleansed from all our sin through His shed blood. (cf. 1 Jn. 1:9)
 - ii. Our old nature is removed. (cf. Col. 2:11)
 - iii. Our heart is circumcised unto God. (cf. Rom. 2:29)
 - iv. Every claim being made against us is disarmed. (cf. Col. 2:15)
 - v. Delivered from death. (cf. Rom. 5:14-21)
 - d. By taking our place in His cross and death...
 - i. We have died with Him to sin and to our flesh, to the world, and to the Evil One. (cf. Rom. 6:11, Gal. 6:14, Col. 1:13)

- ii. We may crucify our flesh with all its passions & desires, pride, unbelief, and idolatry.
- iii. We may take off the old man. (cf. Eph. 4:22)
- iv. We may bring the cross of Christ between me and all people, all spirits, and all things.

3. Jesus' resurrection

a. The Story

- i. Luke 24:1-9. The women find the empty tomb and the angels.
- ii. Jn. 20:1-9. John and Peter come to the tomb and find the grave clothes; napkin folded.
- iii. Jn. 20:10-

b. If Jesus' death and resurrection were untrue, it's doubtful at best that 3,000 people would have believed and surrendered to Jesus only 50 days after His crucifixion in the same city He died and rose.

c. Jesus' resurrection is real. 1 Cor. 15:1-8

d. The resurrection is absolutely key. 1 Cor. 15:14-22

e. Jesus' resurrection offers a new life, our holiness and sanctification. (cf. Eph. 4:24)

f. The work and triumph of your resurrection

- i. Raised with Him to a new life, (cf. Rom. 6:11)
- ii. Able to walk in newness of life, (cf. Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12)
- iii. Dead to sin and alive to God, (cf. Rom. 6:11, Col. 2:13)
- iv. I am crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. (cf. Gal. 2:20)

g. Reign in life through Him putting on the new man. (cf. Rom. 5:17, Rom. 6:4)

- i. In all holiness and humility,
- ii. In all righteousness and purity and truth,
- iii. Christ is now my life, the one who strengthens me. (cf. Phil. 4:13)

h. Post resurrection vignettes:

- i. Mary call Jesus "*Rabboni*";
- ii. Jesus on the Emmaus road (cf. Luke 24:15-33)
- iii. Jesus breathes upon them to receive the Holy Spirit. (cf. Jn. 20:22)
- iv. Thomas – his doubts, his fears & questions, and Jesus' making the time just for him. (cf. Jn. 20:24-29)
- v. Peter reinstated. (cf. Jn. 21:15-25)
- vi. At Peter's question about John, Jesus responds, "*What is that to you? You follow Me.*"
- vii. Over 500. (cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-8)
- viii. "*And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.*"
Jn. 21:25

4. Jesus' ascension

a. Parallel with Elijah. 2 Kings 2:9-12

b. The work and triumph of His ascension

- i. Jesus should have total authority and rule over our life.
 - ii. Jesus is our ever-lasting victory over Satan and his kingdom.
 - iii. Satan has been judged and cast down, his rulers and authorities disarmed, (cf. Jn. 12:31, Col. 2:15)
 - iv. All authority in heaven and on earth given to Jesus. (cf. Mt. 28:18)
 - v. We have been given fullness in Him as the Head over all. (cf. Col. 2:10)
 - vi. We have been raised with Him to the right hand of the Father. (cf. Eph. 2:6)
 - vii. We are established with Him in all authority. (cf. Eph. 2:6)
 - c. The angels two-fold exhortation:
 - i. Why are you standing here, get going and quit dawdling.
 - ii. Jesus will return as you saw Him leave. Zech. 14:4, *"And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east."*
5. What does the resurrection do for us today?
- a. The resurrection challenges the world's beliefs. Acts 4:1-3, *"Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being **greatly disturbed** that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening."*
 - b. The call to be the witnesses of Christ; Acts 1:8, *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
 - i. Last recorded incidence of Mary the mother of Jesus (cf. Acts 1:14)
 - ii. Rev. 12:11, *"...they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."*
 - iii. 120 was the minimum number of people required to establish a new Jewish community with its own council of leaders. The community was made up of men and women.
 - iv. Jesus' brothers were there as well, although they were initially skeptical of Jesus (cf. Jn. 7:5), they became convinced of His true identity once He appeared to them after the resurrection (cf. 1 Cor. 15:7).
 - c. Jn. 20:29, *"Jesus said to him, **"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."**"*
6. The power of our witness
- a. To the false gods of this age. Rom. 1:4, *"declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."*
 - b. To the hopelessness, apathy and meaninglessness that surrounds us.
 - c. Resurrection
 - d. Sin