

# THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## Out of the Tomb!

### How the Resurrection of Jesus Changed the World

2 Cor. 5:1-8

#### Thursday night – Preparation for change

#### Friday – Jesus paid the sin debt in full – Tetelestai! It is finished!

- By His body broken for us and His blood shed for us,
- Jesus won the victory over sin – for us!
- God ripped the veil in the temple showing us all that access to Heaven had been opened to all through the death of His Son upon the cross.

#### Saturday – Jesus demonstrated His victory over Satan.

- In the Spirit, Jesus took the repentant thief to Paradise in Sheol, the Abode of the Dead, where he met Abraham and other Old Testament believers.
- Jesus announced His victory to the demonic spirits imprisoned in the abyss.
- That announcement was probably heard by all of those in torment in the flames of hell, like the rich man Jesus told us about in Luke 16.

If you missed some of this detail and it interests you, you can find it on our website where you can stream the worship service from any of the last three weeks or read the sermon that is also posted there.

**Today is Resurrection Day!** Jesus came out of that tomb! And we are going to look at How the Resurrection of Jesus Changed the World.

But before we do, let me mention that next Sunday we are going to complete this series by examining what Jesus did for the forty days following His resurrection while He continued appearing in His resurrection body to people all over Judea and Galilee, before He ascended back to the Father and sat down on His throne in Heaven.

Why did Jesus hang around?

What was so important that He would stay that long after the cross and the resurrection?

Next week, we will see.

But today we look at the third day of the three days that changed the world.

Jesus came out of that tomb.

Do you know that **The resurrection of Jesus is one of the most thoroughly documented events in the history of the world.**

- **Four accounts based on eyewitnesses were written while other people who witnessed the same events were still living.** If the authors had been lying or in error, there were plenty of people available to point out that something was not true. The gospels came under no such attack from other witnesses.
- **Many eyewitnesses of the resurrection later came under attack and persecution.** They were told that if they recanted their claim, they could live. If they maintained their claim that they saw the resurrected Jesus they would die. **The truth of the resurrection was so important to them that they surrendered their lives rather than change their testimony.**
- **There are a dozen different documented appearances of the resurrected Christ. Each one is different in terms of who saw Him, where, and what they were doing. None of these offer evidence of coordination or orchestration.**
- **Numerous unbelievers give testimony to the veracity of different points of the resurrection claim.** Certainly these people did not want to support the idea of a resurrection; they were just telling the truth as they saw it.

On and on we could go, but offering detailed evidence of the historicity of the resurrection is not our purpose today.

Our primary purpose today is to ask, "What difference did the resurrection make?"

How did the resurrection of Jesus change the world?

How can the resurrection of Jesus change your life?

**BY HIS RESURRECTION JESUS SHOWED US THE REALITY OF THE AFTERLIFE.**

- **Jesus Himself was dead**, and everybody knew it; **but on the third day, He was alive and well.** Not only that, but He was both the same and different.
  - People recognized Jesus, but not always immediately.
  - Jesus did normal things. He walked; He talked; He ate.

- But Jesus also did supernatural things. He appeared in rooms without entering through a door or window. He moved instantly from Judea to Galilee.
- It was Jesus, but it was Jesus in a different kind of body than He had before He died.
- **Jesus told some of those who talked with Him about where He had been on Saturday, when in the Spirit He went to Sheol, the Abode of the Dead.**
  - **That's how Peter knew.**
  - **Demons are real.**
  - **Hell is real.** I can hear Jesus say, "I saw the rich man I told you about who died and went to hell and all the other skeptics and scoffers who didn't believe in me and would not trust God's provision of Messiah."
  - **Paradise is real.** I saw those that believe the promises of God are true.

My friend, listen. **These things are real.**

- **These things are not just religious symbols or allegories.**
- Jesus is not some itinerate preacher, who was humble and good, but who was later just immortalized in the imaginations of men and women.
- **Jesus is the eternal Son of God.**
  - Who for a brief season of time left His throne of glory in Heaven.
  - Came down to this earth and entered human flesh by being born to a virgin.
  - He spoke the words of God the Father.
  - He did the work of God the Father as well.
  - **The most important work He did was to pay the penalty of sin by His death upon the cross, so that you and I could have forgiveness of sin and eternal life.**
  - Even today He offers that forgiveness and eternal life to those who will trust Him as their Savior and receive Him as the Lord and Master of their lives.
- But listen, the afterlife is real also!

- **Jesus told us that EVERYBODY GETS RESURRECTED!**

John 5:28-29 NKJV Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

- An average of **153,424.7 people die in the world per day**. Some days I feel like I am one of the .7!
- We all are going to die, and we all are going to be resurrected. Will you be part of the resurrection of life or the resurrection of condemnation?
- And what about all your family members you love? They too are going to die, and they too will be a part of either the resurrection of life or the resurrection of condemnation. Have you talked to them? Have you helped them to know how they can live as a part of God's family forever rather than suffering in the torment of hell? Even the rich man in hell wanted to get a message to his brothers so they would not come there. Hell is full of "would be" evangelists.

What difference does the resurrection of Jesus make? He showed us that the afterlife is real. We all spend eternity somewhere.

Secondly,

### **JESUS DEMONSTRATED WHY HE ALONE CAN BE TRUSTED FOR ETERNAL LIFE.**

Jesus showed us this immediately after His own resurrection.

Matthew 27:51–53 NKJV 51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and **many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised**; 53 and coming out of the graves **after His resurrection**, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

- **After Jesus arose, He led the Old Testament believers out of Paradise and took them to heaven.**
  - That is why years later, after Paul trusts in Christ, and is writing a letter to the Corinth, he notes that Paradise has been moved to the third Heaven, which is the residence of God.
  - That is why believers today go directly to heaven when they die.
- When Jesus led the victory parade into the gates of Heaven, followed by all the Old Testament believers, **Jesus went into the Heavenly Holy of Holies, carrying His own blood to make atonement for the sins of all who had and would in the future trust in Him.**

Hebrews 9:11–12 NKJV 11 But **Christ came as High Priest** of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but **with His own blood** He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having **obtained eternal redemption.**

No one else in all the history of the world has even claimed to do what Jesus did.

He alone has the words of life.

Jesus alone is the way, the truth, the life.

No one can come to the Father except through Jesus Christ, His Son!

That's the difference the cross and the resurrection make!

The third way the resurrection changed the world and can change your life is that

**JESUS ALONE OFFERS BELIEVERS A RESURRECTION BODY LIKE HIS.**

- **The believer will get a new body!**

2 Corinthians 5:1 NKJV For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Who doesn't want a new body? The longer we live in our temporary house, our tent, the more worn and broken it becomes. But God promises believers that they will get a new resurrection body, like the body of Jesus when He came out of the tomb! It will be a body not made by procreation, passing on the effects of sin across generations but a body made directly by God. It will never wear out! It will never get worn down. It will never get sick. It will never die.

- **The believer will get a new life!**

2 Corinthians 5:4 NKJV For **we who are in this tent groan**, being burdened, not because **we want to be unclothed**, but **further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.**

The believer not only gets a new body but gets to live in that body in a whole new life! I have taught those of you who have attended a while some of the detail of what our lives are going to be like when we live for eternity with the Lord. We are not going to become chubby little angels with baby faces and stubby wings sitting on clouds playing harps! Life will be full of meaning and purpose and relationships. We will have jobs to do, but not work that is only performed for a paycheck to keep food on the table but work that is both challenging and rewarding. Life will be full of industrious productivity and the relationships we have with the Lord and each other will exceed even the most meaningful and beautiful of relationships now. It will be a wonderful life!

- **The believer will get to fulfill God's plan!**

**2 Corinthians 5:5 NKJV** Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Folks, for us to live in resurrection bodies with Him has been God's purpose all along! Redeeming us through faith in Christ is not Plan B after Plan A did not work! God is honored and glorified that after people made in His image rebelled against Him, that He redeemed them to Himself, and giving them eternal life in bodies fit for eternity, they shall live gladly with Him, loving and praising Him forevermore. And for now, He has given us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us as a taste of what is to come and as a guarantee that God will make it happen.

- **The believer will get to live with God Himself!**

**2 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

**CONCLUSION:** What difference does the resurrection make? Because of the resurrection...

- We know the afterlife is real. We will all live somewhere after we die.
- We know that the one and only way to live with God is through Jesus Christ and His death upon the cross.
- We get the benefit of a resurrection body and life with the Lord, first in Heaven, then on earth in the Millennial Kingdom, then with God forever on a new earth surrounded by new heavens.

All because of Jesus' death on the cross and glorious resurrection.

Oh how three days changed the world and can change us if we trust in Christ.