

Rev. 1:17-18 – The Proof and Truth of the Resurrection

Intro. - Basic Christian confession = Jesus Christ is LORD! There is no one like Jesus. He is the incomparable Creator and Sustainer of His universe. He is before all things, the reason for all things and the Lord of all things. He is the Lord of life and Doorkeeper of death. Jesus is the most significant person in history and He deals with our most significant problem (sin & death). The followers of Christ gather together on the 1st day of every week because it was on this day the Christ conquered our enemy death and demonstrated the veracity of His claim to pay for, and forgive, sin. Today is a high and holy day for our religion, but Christians celebrated the Jesus' resurrection 52 SONday's a year – each Lord's Day we gather & celebrated our Lords resurrection. Today we consider the PROOF & TRUTH of the Resurrection.

THE PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

1. The Resurrection is essential. Without it we are without hope and we would have a false faith
 - a. Our faith is a farce if there was no, and is no, resurrection 1 Cor. 15:14,17-19
 - b. The resurrection is vital but it is also verified (Christ is risen indeed)
2. Prophecy in OT many about the details of His death – also some about His resurrection
 - a. Psalm 16:10 Psalm of David shows his hope in personal resurrection
 - i. David won't be abandoned in the grave forever. (long stay but will get out)
 - ii. Holy One will have short stay and no decay. Peter used this text in Acts 2:24ff
 - iii. Paul used this text in his sermon in Antioch Acts 13:35-37
3. Proclamations before & Appearances after
 - a. Jesus predicted His own death and resurrection many times. Publicly/privately/openly
 - b. Matt. 12:40 (John 2:19-22) Matthew 16:21-23 (Matthew 20:17-19)
 - c. John 10:17-18 Jesus not only had power to raise others...He had power to raise Himself
 - d. Acts 1:3 - many convincing proofs - women, grave clothes folded, on the road, broke bread, disciples, Thomas, on beach after fishing, 500 at once, road to Damascus
4. Priests the actions of Jesus' enemies confirm His words and resurrection
 - a. They sealed the tomb – Matthew 27:62-66 (this confirms Jesus prophesied resurr.)
 - i. Odd thing to do the guard a tomb (except He said He would stay only 3 days)
 - b. They paid the soldiers after soldiers reported the resurrection - Matt. 28:11-15
 - i. Proving a guy is dead is pretty easy just produce the body. But empty tomb!
5. Apostles they changed from cowards to preachers and martyrs
 - a. They all initially forsook Him and fled/hid. Then they boldly and openly proclaimed Him, and His resurrection, to the very ones that crucified Christ!
 - i. Acts 4:20 "cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard"
 - b. They were Eyewitnesses! They ate with Him 1 Cor. 15:1-8 (resurrection is reality)
6. Priorities of worship
 - a. Jewish converts changed day of worship from Saturday to Sunday (after 4 millennia)
 - b. Time itself is measured from the significance of this Person and His resurrection

THE TRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION

The resurrection has many an implication. Because it is so, then that is so. If this is true then that is true

1. Jesus is the Only True God and Truth itself John 14:6
 - a. Only God has the power of life and death Rev. 1:18 HE IS LIFE
 - b. Rom 1:3-4 – declared with power to be the Son of God by the resurrection. Jesus is Lord
2. The purpose and efficacy of the crucifixion is declared in the resurrection
 - a. Many people died on crosses. Why believe Jesus' death had any special meaning?
 - b. How do we know that His death actually paid for sins? That is what is claimed...
 - i. John – "Behold the Lamb of God..." Jesus said, "It is finished. " (debt is paid)
 - c. How do know that the supposed payment was accepted?
 - i. Did His death accomplish what was claimed? Or just empty words/pipe dream?
 - ii. Is there any evidence that His death was efficacious?
 - d. YES! The RESURRECTION!
 - i. We know He has power to forgive because He had power to die & raise Himself
3. Jesus' resurrection assures our Justification. (righteousness and right standing before God)
 - a. Rom. 4:25 raised for our justification raised for our righteousness
 - b. Justification usually used in negative sense – (cover up/justify or excuse some wrong)
 - i. Jesus' resurrection is my justification. My sin covered & have right standing
 - c. The reason He was raised was so I could be declared righteous Rom. 8:33-34
 - d. His resurrection is a declaration that all those in Him have right standing before God
4. Resurrection also demands our sanctification (those declared right must live right)
 - a. "...as Christ was raised from dead...we too might walk in newness of life" - Rom. 6:4
 - b. Followers of Christ must follow His footsteps. Death to sin and newness of life
 - c. Those justified by powerful resurrection have resurrection power to be sanctified
5. Resurrection assures the Judgment to come
 - a. Acts 17:30-31
 - b. Jesus is the Judge. John 5:22 Keys of death and hell
 - i. Acts 10:40-42 (2 Tim. 4:1)
 - c. The resurrection guarantees there will be an accounting Heb.9:27
 - i. Rev. 22:12-13 Rev. 1:18
6. Resurrection removes the fear of death (not just theological truth but practical truth)
 - a. Heb. 2:14-15 "...who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives"
 - b. Very practical of truth for these days of Covid (fear of death is everywhere)
 - c. *In Christ Alone* –(4) "No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
 No power of hell, no scheme of man, can every pluck me from His hand.
 Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I stand.
 - d. Jesus is the Lord of life and the Doorkeeper of death
7. Jesus and His resurrection is where we enter salvation
 - a. Rom. 10:9