

Why is the Resurrection important?

Mark 16:1-7 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷ But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

- Jesus is Risen. He is alive!
- Why were the women coming with spices? Because Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had already done it.

But why is the Resurrection important?

- It is the blood of Christ that cleanses us from sin.
- His wounds and stripes brought us healing.
- His sacrifice satisfied the wrath of God.
- On the cross Jesus proclaimed It is finished!

I see several reasons in Scripture why it is important.

#1 – The Resurrection proves the Deity of Jesus

- We are not expected to believe that what happened on the cross really happened without evidence that it really happened.
 - **Matthew 12:39-40** But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be

given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- Jesus rejected the Pharisees request for a sign that proved He was God, because He knew they were trying to trap Him. But He did tell them that they would see the sign of Jonah.
- Jesus not only fulfilled the prophecies of His resurrection, but also prophesied of it Himself.
- Jesus showed Himself to many so there would be eye-witness testimony of His resurrection, proving He is God.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.
 - There are more eye witness accounts of Jesus after the resurrection than there are for Plato.

#2 - The Resurrection proves that there is a resurrection for all of us

- **1 Corinthians 15:20-21** But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.
- There is more to this life. Jesus rising from the dead, showing Himself, then ascending to heaven gives us confidence that we will also rise to heaven.
- **1 Corinthians 15:19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

- Since we would not have been able to see Jesus go from the grave to heaven, He made a pit stop here on earth to show us that that is what happens. The Ascension is the other half of the Resurrection.
- And it is the hope of heaven that gives us joy, a future, excitement, and sees us through trials
 - **1 Peter 1:3-5** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

#3 – The Resurrection shows that Jesus has power over death

1 Corinthians 15:20-26 But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.

- Christ rose from the dead and is first in leading the way for all those that have physically died.
- Through man came death, by man (Jesus) came the resurrection of the dead
- We are all descended from Adam, so we are all under the authority of death
- But when we come into Christ, we are now made alive.
 - Jesus' resurrection shows that we remain alive even after physical death.

- At the end, Jesus will eliminate death in all ways. Currently death still has some authority over the physical. But Jesus took away all its authority over the Spiritual. At the end, Death will also lose authority over the physical.

#4 – The Resurrection shows that Jesus can do anything

- Sure, Jesus healed the sick, drove out demons, gave sight to the blind. He even raised 3 people from the dead. But if He dies, what can He do?
- **John 10:17-18** "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
- **John 2:19** Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
- By Jesus raising Himself up, it destroys sin, death, the curse of the law and gives us the victory
- **1 Corinthians 15:56-57** The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In other words – If the tomb is empty, there is nothing too impossible for God.

- The empty tomb gives us faith that whatever we need from Jesus, He is capable to give us.
- The empty tomb drives out fear. If the One in whom I place my life is able to raise Himself from the dead, what can He not do?

#5 – The Resurrection shows that Jesus is not in the Ground!!!

- We serve a risen Savior.
- Mohamoud is in the ground. Buddha is in the ground. Joseph Smith is in the ground. Confucius is in the ground.

- But Jesus is not in the ground.
- He is still appearing to people. All over the world He has appeared to many drawing them to the Truth.
- This is not a dead religion. Our prayers are effective because they are to a God who lived as us, experienced this life as us, and is still alive with all authority and power.

#6 – The Resurrection shows that we have full victory over sin

- **Romans 8:10** And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.
- The body is dead because of sin - because of sin, the life of man is forfeited; and the verse, "For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return" must be fulfilled on every human being, until Jesus returns.
- But our true life is in our spirit – because Christ is in us.
- If Christ was not risen, He could not be in us. But He is in us.

He who receives the grace and Spirit of Christ, and continues to live under its influence, will have a resurrection to eternal life; and the resurrection of Christ will be the pattern after which they shall be raised.

- **Romans 8:11** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Because Jesus is alive – we are alive. We are alive more than we could ever be without Him.