

“What the Resurrection Proves!”

1 Corinthians 15:12-19; 50-58

Intro. – Years ago on a Resurrection Sunday just before he died, D. William Sangster painfully penned a short note. A deeply spiritual man, Sangster had been spearheading a mission effort in the British Isles after World War II. His mission effort however, was brought to a halt except for prayer. A disease paralyzed his body, even his vocal chords. But the last Resurrection Sunday he spent on earth, still able to move his fingers, he penned the following to his daughter: “How terrible to wake up on (Resurrection Sunday) and have no voice to shout, ‘He is risen!’ Far worse is to have a voice and not want to shout.”

We ask this morning, do you have a voice to shout?! Even more pressing, do you want to shout that He is risen?! It staggers our minds to think if Christ had not come lived, died, was buried and raised again what would our lot be today? Thank Almighty God there are no “ifs,” “ands,” or “buts” about it:

Purpose: to study three key areas the resurrection of Christ proves

I Our Faith is Not in VAIN (vv 12-19)

- all of Christianity stands or falls with the resurrection... this is the whole point of these verse which can be outlined as follows:

A. The Source of Faith (Bible)

1. Preaching and teaching of the Apostles brought forth faith...
2. The complete Bible is our source of “faith” (cf Romans 10:17 etc.)
 - a. it is complete (1 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - b. it is SOLID (John 10:35 – “...*Scripture cannot be broken.*”

The very basis of the Bible is proven by the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

B. The Object of Faith (Jesus Christ)

1. He is called “Alpha and Omega” – the beginning and the end!
2. He is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)...
3. Because of His resurrection we know the following:
 - a. He is not a LIAR...
 - b. He is not a LUNATIC...
 - c. He is LORD!...

He truly is the OBJECT of our faith

C. The Expression of Faith (His Church)

1. God intended growth to come... to come through His Son’s Church
2. Our being present for worship... study... service is never in vain.
3. We have an active local church here ONLY because of Christ’s resurrection.

This is the point. Christ is resurrected; thus, it proves again/again that our faith is not in vain! Because He lives, our lives can be lived out in the *resurrection faith* = faith disciples had after seeing the risen Lord!

II Our Body Will be REPLACED (vv 42-45; 50-54)

- Scripture reaffirms that Christ was risen with a glorified body... Philippians 3:21 makes clear those who are faithful will receive a like body.
- how can we be so sure of this? The resurrection of Jesus proves it!

A. An Imperishable Body

1. Contrasted to our perishable bodies...
2. Our present bodies ache, age, grow weaker etc. ... we all know this too well and can illustrate this more ways than we care to admit...
3. Our *gloried bodies* will be DEATHLESS = no aches, pain, sickness or death!...

B. A Glorified Body

1. Our present bodies will be sown in “dishonor” i.e. sown in “corruption”...
 - a. Genesis 3:19 “...*For you are dust and to dust you shall return.*”
 - b. i.e. when put in a grave, these bodies return to material from which they were made...
2. “Glorified” means there is no way this body will ever decay or rot away.

C. A Powerful Body

1. Certainly our present bodies are lowly bodies of humiliation – subject to disease, aging, cancer, infections, allergies, and eventually death...
2. This “new body” will be strong = strapping, sturdy, tough, stout, robust, solid, resilient, stalwart, brawny, vigorous, powerful, durable, unyielding, unbending, relentless, fixed, well suited, precise, exact, enduring, lasting, everlasting and permanent

D. A Spiritual Body

1. Means it will be “suited” to live in Heaven = e.g. like a fish in water... take it out of this environment and it dies...
2. Means it will enable us to be in His presence...

The resurrection of Jesus is proof we who are faithful unto death will receive a new, marvelous body. Our bodies will certainly be replaced!

III Our Victory Will be Over DEATH (vv 55-58)

- in speaking about this, the victory is only ours *IN CHRIST!* which is all important...:

A. A Love and Understanding of God as Our Creator

1. Reverence and not dread for God – “dread” for God is understood only in the sense of dreading the wrath of God or i.e. death.
2. Relationship with God is RESTORED through Christ – we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

B. A Love for Spiritual and Not Material Matters

1. Our treasures will be put up in heaven, and not on earth (e.g. dread of death has been removed).
2. Our priorities are set = we’re learning to choose not just what is “good” but what is “best” = putting God first in all matters... our lives and lifestyles make this abundantly clear...

C. A Love for the Future and Not the Past

- Illus. – a wealthy tycoon had a whirlwind courtship and a sudden marriage to a woman half his age. Shortly after the wedding, the tycoon became quite ill. He was hospitalized and placed on oxygen. His new young wife came to visit him.

When he saw her, the tycoon spoke, “Darling, I don’t want you to worry about the future. My will has been made. You are going to get all my stocks/bonds, the ski resort in Vail, the twelve cars, the property in Chicago, the villa in Monte Carlo, and the billion dollar trust fund.”

Tears welled up in his wife’s eyes. “Oh, Fred!” she mumbled, “You’ve been so sweet and kind. Tell me, husband dear, isn’t there something I can do for you?”

He began to struggle a little bit, but finally managed to say, “Yes, yes there is one thing you can do. Could you get off my air hose?”

1. This carries the idea of “This World is Not My Home!”...
2. The greatest days lie beyond the present – to be present in the body is to be absent from the Lord!

Victory is ours over death! How do we know? How can we be so sure? He is risen! He is risen indeed!!

Conclusion: Communist leader Nikolai Bukharin journeyed from Moscow to Kiev. His mission was to address a huge assembly. His purpose was to persuade the assembly of atheism. For a solid hour he aimed his heavy artillery at Christianity, hurling argument after argument interlaced with ridicule. He finally finished and viewed what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of many peoples’ faith. “Are there any questions?” Bukharin

asked the crowd. One man arose and asked permission to speak. He mounted the platform and moved close to the Communist leader. The audience was silent as the man surveyed the crowd. First, he looked right and then he looked left. Having surveyed the entire assembly the man shouted the ancient greeting: "CHRIST IS RISEN!" The vast assembly arose in unison and shouted back, 'HE IS RISEN INDEED!'"

I ask again, do you have a voice to shout? Even more pressing do you want to shout that Jesus Christ is risen?! His resurrection proves the following to all of us this morning:

1. Our Faith is Not in Vain
2. Our Body Will be Replaced
3. Our Victory Will be Over Death

How we need to let the world know when it comes to the bodily resurrection of our Lord – there's no ifs, ands, or buts about it!