



The Power of the Resurrection

Sunday April 4th 2021

Luke 24:44-47 (ESV) Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

The cross of Christ is sufficient for all but effective only for those who turn to Him for the forgiveness of sin.

Repentance – to turn from sin and turn to God for forgiveness.

The ultimate goal of preaching is to see people turn to God.

Of course, we will not turn to God unless we understand the need for God. We will never understand our need for God until we recognize the dire state of our soul.

Unless we acknowledge that the path we are on without God is one of emptiness that leads to death and hell, we will not turn to Him.

We will never appreciate the death burial and resurrection of Christ until we see the true condition of our soul and eternal destination without Him.

Jesus opened the minds of the disciples

He opened their minds to understand the scriptures concerning the need for His death burial and resurrection.

Luke 24:46 (NKJV) Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.

Why was His death, burial and resurrection necessary? It was the realization of God's plan to save man. Jesus was our substitute. He took our place.

Romans 5:6 (NLT) When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

The disciples had all been awaked to the state of their souls and humanness. They knew first-hand their need for a Savior. For they had all forsaken Christ and hidden in fear for their lives. None of them had come to His defense. None could justify their actions, they were sinners in need of forgiveness.

The power of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is better understood in the light of the sinfulness of man.

We are corrupt in our nature

The scriptures are very clear that humans, without the redemptive grace of the work of the Cross of Christ, are evil to the core, totally dead in sin and on the path to eternal separation from God.

This doesn't mean that everyone will commit every type of sin, nor that a person cannot value or even do acts of kindness, but it does mean that the corruption of sin spreads to all men and to all parts of man so that there is nothing within the natural man that can give him merit with God.

Romans 8:7, 8 (GW) This is so because the corrupt nature has a hostile attitude toward God. It refuses to place itself under the authority of God's standards because it can't. ⁸ Those who are under the control of the corrupt nature can't please God.

Romans 3:10-12, 23 (ESV) as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." ...²³For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

You may be saying, “I’m not that bad of a person”, “The good things I do outweigh the bad”.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV) "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?

(ASV) The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can know it?

(BBE) The heart is a twisted thing, not to be searched out by man: who is able to have knowledge of it?

(GNB) "Who can understand the human heart? There is nothing else so deceitful; it is too sick to be healed.

Without Christ we are like “dead men walking” We are on death row but unaware of it.

John 3:18 (ESV) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

(MSG) Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it.

Without Christ we like sheep going to the meat market who think they are simply going to get sheared but instead will be slaughtered.

Without Christ we are without hope, heading to a path of eternal separation from God. Herein comes the power of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The power of the cross and resurrection or the redemptive work of Christ

Luke 24:46-47 (NLT) “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. ⁴⁷ It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’

Acts 3:19-20 (NKJV) Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...

Acts 13:38-39 (NKJV) Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; ³⁹ and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 6:23 (GW) The payment for sin is death, but the gift that God freely gives is everlasting life found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:8-9 (ESV) “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

The power of the cross and resurrection of Jesus has taken “dead men walking” and made them “new men living”