

WHY THE RESURRECTION MATTERS

March 31, 2013 Various Texts by Bob Branch
EASTER SUNDAY

MAIN IDEA: Why is the Resurrection of Jesus so important?

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. **1 Corinthians 15:17**

Is the Resurrection True?

Dr. Simon Greenleaf: “It was impossible that the apostles could have persisted in affirming the truths they had narrated, had not Jesus Christ actually risen from the dead!”

WHY THE RESURRECTION?

■ TO JESUS: It authenticated everything he said about himself.

From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

Matthew 16:21 NLT

■ TO GOD THE FATHER: It show his approval of the atoning work on the cross: “I accept this. Payment in full.”

Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. **John 19:30**

■ TO YOU: It’s an invitation into an awakening of heart.

1. It means **FORGIVENESS** is now available for ALL your sins.

And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the

dead. And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.” **Acts 10:39-43** NLT

2. It means that same **RESURRECTION POWER** is now at work in all who put their trust in him.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know... his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms... **Ephesians 1:18–20**

3. It means you can now have **HOPE** because death has been conquered.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation [hope], and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. **1 Pet. 1:3–4** NLT

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.” **1 Corinthians 15:55**

Not trivial: *What happens when you die? Scared?* ILL: Olympics

4. It all becomes **PERSONAL** because Christ rose! Now you/God?

He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God. **Romans 4:25** NLT

Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. Everyone who believes in him is declared right with God **Acts 13:38–39** NLT