

What is the gospel? #5: The resurrection of Jesus

Blank Title

Introduction

Last week we saw that the death of Christ on the cross was the place where he took our place, was our substitute and took upon himself our punishment, so that we might have peace with God. But there is more to it than that, before we can go into detail about what really happened on the cross, and how the many deadly consequences of sin were dealt with, we need to look at the resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. Today we turn our attention to the resurrection.

As with the claims of Christ, let us first look at the evidence for the resurrection before we look at its significance:

Evidence:

1. **Jesus predicted it** e.g. Matt 16.21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.
2. Jesus made **numerous appearances** to his followers (at least 10) e.g. 1 Corinthians 15.3-6 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. **6** After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, **8** and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born., John 20 in the upper room and to Thomas, Matt 28.1-10 in the garden to Mary, Luke 24.13-32 to the disciples on the road to Emmaus
3. The **unrelenting faith of the disciples** – they wouldn't die for a lie or something that was wishful thinking **Act 4:18** Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. **20** For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." **21** After further threats they let them go. They could not decide

What is the gospel? #5: The resurrection of Jesus

how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

4 The **growth of the Christian church** Acts 2.41 **Act 2:41** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

5 The testimony of hundreds of millions of **transformed lives through the centuries**.

This last point brings us to the significance of the resurrection – that there is power, hope, purpose for life now and through beyond death as well

- **The resurrection sets Christianity apart.**
 - a. No other religious leader has broken the power of death and conquered sin. I remember Michael Green speaking at a mission in Plymouth Poly saying ‘imagine you were at a fork in the road and wanted directions, there are two men by the roadside, one is dead, the other is alive – which one will you ask for help?

Only Christianity is based on the historical evidence of a risen Christ and an empty tomb.

1. What is the significance of the resurrection of Jesus?
 - It proves that **Jesus was divine** Romans 1. the gospel of God-- 2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - Many have died on a cross but only one predicted and was actually raised again from the dead afterwards.
 - It proves that Christ has **the power to forgive sins**
 - **Rom 4:25** He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.
 - 1 Cor 15.17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

What is the gospel? #5: The resurrection of Jesus

- Proves Christ's **power over death**
 - Romans 6.9 **Rom 6:9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.
 - For us too Eph 2.6 **Eph 2:6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,
- The resurrection **defeated God's enemy**
 - Romans 5 **Rom 5:20** The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, **Rom 5:21** so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - Rev 1.17-18 **Rev 1:17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. **Rev 1:18** I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.
 - Col 2.15 **Col 2:13** When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature,^[2] God made you^[3] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **Col 2:14** having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. **Col 2:15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.^[4]

Romans 5.12-21

Cp Gen 3; Adam's sin – death to all in him, human race identified with Adam in his transgression – we were 'in him' when he left the garden of Eden and God's presence.

If the defeat of humanity was due to the identification with Adam in his treason, as we are identified with Christ, the second Adam by faith, we likewise share in his triumph.

The first step was his identification with humanity – the **incarnation** Heb 2 entirely like us but without sin.

Heb 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- **Heb 2:15** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

What is the gospel? #5: The resurrection of Jesus

The second step was his identification with mankind's sin / nature; being our **substitute**— 2 Cor 5.21 — God made him who had no sin to be sin^[1] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The last concept for us to start to understand which allows us to move forward is **identification** — that as we were in Adam when he left the garden, so we were in Christ when he went through the phases of our redemption:

- a) He was **crucified**, Paul says 'I was crucified with Christ' Gal 2.20
- b) pay mans penalty Isa 53.6 of death, he **died** under our judgement and we died 'with him'
 - **Isa 53:5** But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. **Isa 53:6** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- c) he was **buried**, and we were buried with him — this is part of the significance of baptism for us.
 - **Rom 6:3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
- d) He was **made alive**, and we were made alive in him
 - Col 2.13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature,^[2] God made you^[3] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,
 - Eph 2.4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.
 - 1 Cor 15.22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.
- We also see that he ascended (**raised**) and **sat down** at the Fathers right hand, and we too are in him
 - Eph 1.20-23, 2.6 That power is like the working of his mighty strength,^[20] which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at

What is the gospel? #5: The resurrection of Jesus

his right hand in the heavenly realms, [21](#) far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. [22](#) And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, [23](#) which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. [Eph 2:6](#) And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

[Rom 4.25](#) He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

[Romans 6.4](#) ...all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death; We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life.