

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

**John 2:19; Luke 24:1-8; Matthew 28:5-6**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** The significance of Easter is overlooked and distorted today. Easter is the Easter Bunny time and the winter is ending and spring is here time. It is one of the two times of the year that many non-Christians and weak Christians attend Sunday services, the other being Christmas. Few realize the importance of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. People just fail to grasp the significance of the resurrection in a personal way. This Easter, take a look at the cards in card shops and see that they are mostly about everything but the real meaning of Easter, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us focus in the following on the uniqueness, the necessity and the urgency of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### I. THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WAS/IS UNIQUE

1. It is unique because of the deity of Jesus.
  - It was not some ordinary man who rose from the dead but it was the Son of God.
  - Jesus had always claimed to be the Son of God and that was what caused Him to be put to death.
  - The resurrection is positive proof that Jesus was/is just who He said He was, The Son of God.
  - Any one other than the Son of God would have remained in the grave and decomposed.
  - His resurrection can in no way be taken too lightly.
2. It is unique because of the death which Jesus died necessitated His resurrection.
  - The One who died on the cross (Jesus) was a sinless man who died on behalf of all sinners.
  - It was not the Lord Jesus' mistakes that caused His death.
  - It was not just a great tragedy that Jesus died so early in His life.
  - Jesus' death was a part of God's eternal plan that His Son, Jesus, would die as an innocent sacrificial lamb as payment for the sins of all mankind.
3. It was unique in that it is without precedent.
  - Never before had anyone been raised from the grave in such way to be completely transformed and beyond the hand of death.
  - Jesus' resurrection was the first of its kind and His resurrection is called "the first fruits" for there will be countless believers in Him who will follow after Him and His resurrection as they too will be resurrected and assume a body like unto His.

### II. THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS WAS/IS NECESSARY

1. It was necessary to prove that Jesus Christ was/is who He claimed to be.
  - Jesus very clearly claimed to be the Son of God.
  - His resurrection was/is proof that Jesus was/is exactly who He claimed to be.
2. It was necessary to prove that Jesus Christ had finished what He had come to do.
  - **1 Corinthians 15:13-14; 16-17)**
  - **Romans 5:9-10**
  - **Acts 2:23-24; 32-33; 36**
3. It was necessary to fulfill Biblical prophecy.
  - **Psalm 16:10**
  - **Acts 2:27; 13:33**
  - Peter said that in Psalm 16, David was not referring to himself, but to the coming Messiah whom God would raise from the dead, therefore Jesus' resurrection was a Biblical necessity.

4. It was also a logical necessity.
  - **Acts 2:24**
  - Peter pointed out that it is impossible for "God" to remain in the grave and decay as mankind does. Jesus being God in the flesh could not have been left in the tomb, dead to decay.
5. It was vital because it is a necessary part of a saving faith.
  - In the Old and the New Testaments, a saving faith was a faith in a God who could and would raise people from the dead.
  - Abraham is an example of one having "saving" faith.
    - **Romans 4:19-20**
    - **Hebrews 11:17-19**
  - Believers in Jesus Christ must have faith in Jesus' resurrection.
    - **John 11:25-26**
    - **Romans 10:9**
  - Personal faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a vital element in a faith that leads to salvation.

### III. IT IS URGENT THAT ONE RESPONDS TO THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The soldiers who guarded where Jesus was entombed (buried) were terrified by Jesus' resurrection but they never came to having faith in Jesus Christ. They were paid to be silent.
  - **Matthew 28:2-4; 12-13; 15**
2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not something to be taken lightly for it is a matter of eternal life or death.
  - It is a fact to be believed or rejected, for one's response will determine his/her eternal destiny.
3. Christmas is a time when people think of a baby in a manger but seldom do they think of the changes that took place at that baby's resurrection and ascension as a grown man as the Son of God.
  - Jesus came in human flesh but had laid aside all signs of His heavenly splendor and glory.
    - **Isaiah 53:1-3**
    - **Philippians 2:6-8**
  - After His resurrection Jesus could appear and disappear in closed and barred rooms.
  - After His ascension, Jesus was highly exalted by the heavenly Father.
    - **Revelation 1:13-18**
4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ has changed His response to sinners.
  - Jesus did not condemn the woman taken in adultery (**John 8:11**) because He had come to bear the condemnation of sinners, to be judged in their place.
    - **John 3:16-17; 8:15; 12:47**
5. The resurrection of Jesus Christ assures that every human being will be resurrected from the grave but not all experience the same blessings.
  - Some will have everlasting life, some will have everlasting disgrace and contempt.
    - **Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Revelation 10:13, 15; Revelation 21:6-8; 22:13-15**
6. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that the sacrifice for sinners has been paid once and for all and that His sacrifice has been accepted.
  - To reject the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation is to expect Him to be judge.

### CONCLUSION:

1. People fail to grasp their own true condition as it relates to the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
  - **1 Peter 2:22-25**
  - People fail to face the fact that Jesus Christ lives today and that they are lost apart from Him.

2. People fail to grasp the majesty, power and holiness of the Lord Jesus Christ as He is this moment and as He will be when they stand before Him.
3. People fail to take the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ personally.
  - People may believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead, but do not take the matter as a personal matter. It may be a fact, but "so what..."
  - When Saul was saved on the roadside, He acknowledged Jesus to be Lord and he came to see how wrong he was and the ugliness of his own sins, although he was a very religious man.
4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most important and significant events in history.
  - Trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, trust His death, burial and resurrection, not intellectually only, but personally, it was for YOU that Jesus came and did what He did.