

## THOUGHTS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION

### Mark 16:1-8

On Friday, the thoughts were centered at the cross. On the first day of the week, they were centered on the grave. The enemies of Jesus thought of the tomb with a sense of great victory. The friends and disciples of Jesus thought of the tomb with great sadness and pain. The disciples feared the Pharisees, and vice-versa. The disciples rolled the great stone in front of the tomb doorway and the Pharisees placed guards there, making sure that no one bothered the tomb. However, Jesus Christ came out of the grave/tomb, came up from the dead. This event was the turning point in world history. What else ever has happened in history that was as important as this?

### I. WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST?

Jesus need not have died on the cross for He was pure and without ever dying He would have ascended back into heaven anyhow. But He did die on the cross and He died the death that a murderer would die as well as a thief.

1. In offering a sacrifice during the Day of Atonement, the High Priest presented himself, then a perfect lamb without blemish was offered. Everything was exact, precise, a perfect ceremony. This satisfied God to the fullest and anything less, the High Priest would have died. When the High Priest came back out from offering the sacrifice, everyone knew that God was satisfied.
2. When Jesus (as High Priest) offered sacrifice for us, it was not an animal, but Himself. All rules were complied with, everything done exactly according to God's will. When completed, God was satisfied.
3. The disciples knew little of the importance of Jesus Christ's atonement. What they couldn't understand their hearts clung to more eagerly. Peter was convinced almost immediately that Jesus had risen, the two disciples enroute to Emmas were convinced and when Jesus appeared to everyone, even Judas was finally convinced.
4. The experiences were the same of all the disciples. When Jesus appeared to them alive, gone were all their tears and their burdened hearts freed. They knew that all their sins had been forgiven, everything was now alright.
  - What happened in the Garden of Joseph was that all the sin and guilt of the entire world had been removed.

### II. NOW, WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION MEAN TO YOU?

What do you know of it through the testimony of the Holy Spirit in your own heart and soul?

1. Perhaps it is strange to some. To be perfectly sure that all sins can be forgiven for some people seem to think they have priority in this area. How can one be sure that he/she can die with the peace of mind that all is well with God? The answer to that is that most probably one is trying to make him/herself worthy of God's grace and that cannot be done. Try as one may,

struggle, labor, almost have it but it slips away. One must take the grace of God on FAITH.

2. On the Day of Atonement all kinds of people from all the different tribes of Israel each with a different spiritual condition, came together, presenting themselves for the same blessing. Every Jew had the same claim to the blessing as did any other Jew. The blessing received was through what the High Priest did as He made sacrifice for every Jew according to God's instructions. The same goes for us today. What Jesus Christ has done is for every person and every person is invited to partake of what Jesus has done.

### **III. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE RESURRECTED JESUS COMES TO A BELIEVER?**

1. What happened to the disciples when Jesus came to them? They were hiding behind locked doors, refusing to go outside and without Jesus with them, they were deathly afraid. But when Jesus came to them, Mary quickly ran to tell the others, the two disciples hurried back to tell the other disciples, and in the upper room the disciples were stirred into their liveliest activity. Jesus lived! Little by little the followers of Jesus increased in boldness, and excitement until at Pentecost everything overflowed and thousands were touched by the return of Jesus from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus lived in their lives.
2. Isn't the resurrection of Jesus just as important today? But where is all the excitement? Where are all the happy followers of Jesus? The greatest man who ever lived, Jesus Christ, has been replaced by ordinary men of much less greatness, men who wrote a book or invented something. Who could possibly be more important than Jesus?

### **IV. WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE RESURRECTED JESUS?**

Perhaps there are some here who know little of this wonderful feeling to know that God will forgive us all of every sin. Is it strange to you that some people can talk of Jesus as if He is right beside them? If you think it is odd, perhaps you have never really talked to Jesus, maybe you don't know Him. Isn't it strange that we have people who say that they know Jesus, that they are Christians, yet never have communion, communication with Him?

1. Understanding the resurrection comes to us in degrees. Our hearts become gladder, lighter every day when we learn more about Jesus. It is like in the spring when things begin to bud and turn green, then comes leaves, then the flowers, then summer. Our summer will be when our life here on earth is done and we can go to the place in Heaven God has for us.

### **V. WHAT ABOUT THE RESURRECTED BODY OF JESUS?**

1. It was a body of flesh, material, like ours. Jesus ate, drank, all His features were the same as ours, yet different.
2. Jesus' body was different because He could walk on water, rise into the air, go through closed doors, and He had a glowing shine about Him at times.

3. When Paul first saw Jesus he was blinded for several days. When Stephen saw Jesus, he no longer felt the pain of the stones hitting his body. When on the isle of Patmos, John saw the risen Jesus and fell as dead to the ground. Yes the body of Jesus was the same, yet different.
4. Our body is frail, corruptible, troublesome and daily we have to feed it, care for it, protect it but someday, our old bodies will be replaced with a body like the one our resurrected Jesus has. Do you think much about that day when your old body will be planted into the ground and will one day spring up as a beautiful, sinless body?

## CONCLUSION:

1. When we plant seed, we use as good seed as possible for we know that a bad seed will not grow.
  - So let us consider our own bodies, let us give up our sins for a sinful body cannot bring forth a noble soul.
  - ***"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God..."***
  - If we give up our sinful body and soul to God, we shall receive from God a cleansed and purified body and soul.
  - If you say that you believe in Jesus with your mouth, you must make it a living power in your life.
2. How will you leave this place? Will you leave this place benefiting from the resurrection of Jesus Christ because you have believed in Him and entrusted your total existence to Him? Or will you leave this place still not sure, wanting to wait a bit longer. If this is how you leave this place, then there is no guarantee that you will ever have another opportunity to do what you should do this very moment, give yourself entirely to the resurrected Jesus.
3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ has guaranteed that every person believing in Him will have their sins taken away and be accepted into God's wonderful family to be with Him in His Heavenly home, forever.