

Introduction

This week I was doing a walk-through with the builder at my mother's new house. When we were in the kitchen his cell phone began to ring. He looked at the caller ID to see who the call was from, and then he said, "Excuse me; I need to take this call. It is very important." And, he left the room for a minute to take the call. We are in the midst of a study of the book of Romans, and are in the last section, which I have entitled, Paul's Concluding Remarks. Today is something very important; it is Resurrection Day, and I want to interrupt our series to focus on this very important day. We will return to our series next week, after this important interruption.

Why is Resurrection Day so important that we would interrupt our series in Rome to focus on it? There are a number of reasons why it is important, and I will briefly give you three right now. First, In Hebrews 6, we are given six foundational teachings. The resurrection of the dead is listed as the fifth foundational teaching. In my experience, many believers have never been taught these six foundational teachings. Therefore, any opportunity we have to remind and teach people about a foundational teaching that will help them press on to maturity is well worth the interruption. These are teachings that we need to understand so that we can press on to maturity in our faith.

(Heb 6:1-2) "Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, {2} of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment."

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:14 that if Christ has not been raised from the dead, then our faith is in vain. Moreover, he says that we are false witnesses of God. He reiterates in verse seventeen that if Christ has not been raised from the dead, our faith is worthless, and we are still in our sins. The resurrection of the dead is therefore an important foundational doctrine in our faith. This merits us taking a day to remember, focus on, and celebrate Christ's resurrection.

(1 Cor 15:12-19) "Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? {13} But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; {14} and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. {15} Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. {16} For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; {17} and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. {18} Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. {19} If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied."

Second, in the introduction to the book of Romans, Paul said that Jesus was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead. Christ's resurrection is a powerful declaration today, just as it was at the time He was raised from the dead. Jesus' resurrection testified and substantiated the gospel message.

(Rom 1:3-4) "concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, {4} who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,"

Third, in Philippians 3:8-11, Paul wrote that he counted all things loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ...that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection...in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead." Paul desperately wanted to know the power of the resurrection. Paul counted knowing Christ and His resurrection power more than all things. We need to have a similar desire to know Christ and His resurrection power in our lives. If Paul considered all things as loss in view of knowing Christ and His resurrection, it is certainly important enough to interrupt our series and take a deeper look at it.

(Phil 3:8-11) "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, {9} and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, {10} that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; {11} in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

What is Resurrection Day? Resurrection Day is the Sunday after the Passover when Jesus was resurrected from the dead. The early Christians began to worship on Sundays because it was the day that Jesus rose from the dead. The Passover is held on the 14th of Nisan, which is the first full moon after the vernal equinox, so the church celebrated Resurrection Day every year on the Sunday after Passover. The name, Easter, comes from a goddess in England named Eostre, who was celebrated at the beginning of spring. When Christianity came to England, they celebrated Resurrection Day, but kept the name, Easter, because of the spring season. When America was established by the pilgrims, many of them wanted to remove the association with Easter and keep it as Resurrection Day. Like the pilgrims, I prefer to call it Resurrection Day.

I like to focus on the practical side of Christianity. I think I got much of this from my father, who always focused on the operational side of drilling. He understood the theories, but he wanted people in the field to be able to apply their knowledge in their operations. In the same way, I want people to know the principles of God's word, but even more importantly, to apply them in their lives. James wrote that we should be doers of the word, not merely hearers who delude themselves. So, today, we will be looking at the Resurrection of Christ from a practical application perspective. I have titled our message, Practical Applications for Resurrection Day.

We will look at four specific applications for our lives. First, Jesus' resurrection should bring confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Second, Jesus' resurrection should bring about an empowered and transformed life, which is free from sin and a guilty conscience. Third, it should bring about a hope for the future. There is an undefiled, imperishable, inheritance reserved in heaven for us that is secured by Christ's resurrection. Fourth, the resurrection of Christ should bring stability to our faith, and protect our faith from being upset by false teachings.

Practical Applications for Resurrection Day

1. Key part of the gospel message
2. An Empowered and Transformed Life
3. Hope for the future
4. Stability in our faith

1. Key Part of the gospel message

In 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Paul said, “Now I make know to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised up on the third day according to the Scriptures.” Paul states very clearly the key parts of the message of the gospel, and the resurrection is one of the key parts. Paul also said this was of first importance.

(1 Cor 15:1-4) “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, {2} by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. {3} For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, {4} and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

In Romans 10:9-10, Paul states what is necessary to be saved. “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a key part of the gospel message.

(Rom 10:9-10) “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; {10} for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Throughout the book of Acts, Paul preached the resurrection of the dead. In Acts 17 the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers ignored what Paul preached, saying, “he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

(Acts 17:18) "And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. And some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"-- because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection."

Later on, in Acts 17:32, others began to sneer when “they heard of the resurrection of the dead.” There were some others though, whose hearts were stirred, and wanted to hear more. They said, “We shall hear you again concerning this.”

(Acts 17:32) "Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this.""

In Paul’s testimony to King Agrippa in Acts 26:22-23, he states very clearly that, “I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.” The doctrine of the resurrection of the dead was an essential part of the gospel message in the early church.

(Acts 26:19, 22-23) ""Consequently, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision...And so, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both

to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; {23} that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

When we look at the gospel message that the other apostles preached, we also find that the resurrection was a key part. In Acts 1:21-22, the eleven remaining apostles were discussing the replacement of Judas Iscariot. They concluded that it was necessary to pick a man that had been with them from the baptism of John until the day Jesus was taken from them, so that the person could be a witness with them of His resurrection. They clearly understood that they were to bear witness of Christ’s resurrection. It was a part of the gospel message.

(Acts 1:21-22) ""It is therefore necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us-- {22} beginning with the baptism of John, until the day that He was taken up from us-- one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection.""

Then, in Acts 2, Peter preached the message at Pentecost where three thousand souls were added to the church. Part of the message included a testimony that the apostles were all witnesses that Christ had been raised from the dead.

(Acts 2:30-33) ""And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, {31} he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. {32} "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. {33} "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."

In Acts 4, Peter and John were arrested for preaching about Jesus. A lame man had been healed and five thousand men were added to the church that day. The Sadducees had them arrested because they were disturbed about what was being taught and proclaimed – that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead and this was a very threatening teaching to them.

(Acts 4:1-3) "And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees, came upon them, {2} being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. {3} And they laid hands on them, and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening."

The Sadducees ordered Peter and John not to speak in the name of Jesus any more. After being threatened, they were released. They went back to the church and they cried out to the Lord for signs and wonders. They were filled with the Holy Spirit. In verse thirty-three, we find that with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

(Acts 4:33) "And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all."

The resurrection of Jesus is a key part of the gospel message. We must believe it to become a believer, and we must share it with others so that they can be saved. In many gospel

presentations, the resurrection of Christ is not included, or lightly touched on. It is not given as a key part or focus of the gospel message. Many state that God has a plan for our lives, but men sinned and have been separated from God. Jesus died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and fellowship could be restored. Man's response is to invite Jesus into our lives and confess Him as Savior. That is a nice presentation, but it is missing this key part of the gospel message. We must include the resurrection of Jesus when we present the gospel to others.

2. An Empowered and Transformed Life

In Romans six, Paul taught on baptism, which is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We are buried with Christ through baptism, and when we are raised up out of the water, it is a picture of our being raised from the dead. The application is that we are united with Christ in His death, and also in His resurrection. We are raised up like Christ to a new, empowered and transformed life, free from sin. When we are being tempted, we need to remember that we have been buried with Christ, and the fleshly lusts have been put to death, and we have been raised up from the dead to live an empowered life. The resurrection of Christ is an important reminder that we are alive to Christ and dead to sin.

(Rom 6:4-11) "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, {6} knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; {7} for he who has died is freed from sin. {8} Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, {9} knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. {10} For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. {11} Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Peter addressed this in his teaching, and tied baptism and the resurrection together. Our baptism is an appeal to God for a good conscience, and this happened through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we are raised up out of the water in baptism, we are identifying with the resurrection of Christ. We are raised up after having died to sins, and after having been freed from the power of sin. We are raised up with a clean conscience and a clean start to serve God in freedom. It is the power of the resurrection that gives us this new life.

(1 Pet 3:21-22) "And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, {22} who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him."

3. Hope for the future

Peter gives us another important insight into the resurrection. He says, "blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you." This great and living hope that we have of our inheritance has been brought about by Christ's resurrection. There are many people today who are feeling hopeless. They need an infusion of

hope in their lives. That infusion of hope can come through a better understanding of the resurrection, and what it is going to mean for us in the future.

(1 Pet 1:3-5) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

In 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, Paul ties the resurrection of Jesus to our hope for the future. He said that Christ is the first fruits, and just as He was raised from the dead, so all of us will be raised. Death came through a man, and by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. Just we all died because of Adam's sin, all who have placed their faith in Christ will be raised up with Christ. We have hope because of Christ's resurrection.

(1 Cor 15:20-23) "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. {21} For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. {22} For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. {23} But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,"

4. Stability in our faith

We saw in 1 Corinthians 15 that we have hope of being resurrected because of the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection of Christ is a reminder of our resurrection in the future, at the coming of Christ. Resurrection Day is a great time to be reminded of our future resurrection. Many people are not knowledgeable about this and can be led astray.

In 2 Timothy 2:16-19, Paul had to clean up a mess created by Hymenaeus and Philetus. These two men had taught that the resurrection had already taken place. Their errant teaching upset the faith of some. Having a good understanding of our resurrection helps us to be stable, and not to be tossed around by every wind of doctrine. Paul had to bring correction to the church about the timing of the resurrection.

(2 Tim 2:16-19) "But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, {17} and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, {18} men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and thus they upset the faith of some."

Paul concludes his teaching in 1 Corinthians 15 discussing the last trumpet, when the dead will be raised imperishable and we shall all be changed. Those that have been born of the Spirit will inherit the kingdom of God. At the last trumpet, in the twinkling of an eye, the dead in Christ will be raised imperishable and be changed.

(1 Cor 15:50-52) "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. {51} Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, {52} in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."

Conclusion and Response

Today, we have seen how important the resurrection of Christ is. Without this, our faith is in vain. Without the resurrection of Christ, there is no new life in Christ; there is no victory over sin and death. Without the resurrection of Christ, there is no hope for the future; there is no hope of an undefiled, imperishable inheritance reserved in heaven for us. The resurrection is a powerful witness that Jesus is the Son of God. The resurrection of Jesus is a key part of the gospel message. Resurrection Day is an opportune time for us to remind the world that Jesus was raised from the dead and He is the Messiah. The resurrection of Christ has great application for our faith today.

This morning, I want to finish with the account of Jesus' resurrection in Luke 24. There are three responses to the resurrection message, the response of the women, the response of the apostles, and the response of Peter.

(Luke 24:1-12) "But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. {2} And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, {3} but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. {4} While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; {5} and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? {6} "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, {7} saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." {8} And they remembered His words, {9} and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. {10} Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. {11} But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. {12} But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened."

The Response of the Women

The women believed the message that the two angels gave to them. They went back and reported the resurrection to the apostles. It could be that your response to the resurrection is that of the women. You believe in the resurrection and you are full of amazement. The question for you this morning is, are you living a resurrection power life? Have you crucified your old self, and are you living a new life, full of resurrection power? Are you sharing the resurrection with others? Are you filled with a hope of your resurrection in the future?

The Response of the Apostles

The second response was that of the apostles; their words appeared to the apostles as nonsense, and they would not believe the women. They knew the Scriptures and the prophecies. They had heard Jesus tell them what was going to happen. And, now the ladies tell them, and they still did not believe them. Maybe you are here this morning, and the resurrection has never made sense to you. The resurrection of Jesus was not done in a corner. There was the witness of the Roman guard. There was the witness of the five hundred. There was the witness of the apostles. This was not done in a corner. It was a known and verifiable fact. Jesus rose from the dead on the third

day. I am asking you today to place your trust in Christ. The resurrection was nonsense to you in the past, but now it is making sense to you. Let me encourage you to receive Christ. Paul wrote that there are two things we must do. We must believe in our heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and we must confess Jesus as Lord. Let me encourage you to confess Jesus as your Lord this morning. Just simply pray with me, “Lord, I do believe that You died for my sins. I believe that on the third day You were raised from the dead. This morning I confess you as my Lord and Savior. Please come into my life and fill me with Your Spirit. Thank You Lord Jesus.

(Rom 10:9-10) “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; {10} for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

The Response of Peter

The third response is that of Peter. He got up and ran to the tomb to see for himself. After seeing it, he marveled at what had happened. When Peter heard the testimony of the women, it first appeared to him as nonsense. Then, he got up and ran to the tomb. Peter wanted to see for himself. He wanted to verify what he had just heard. After arriving at the tomb, he stooped and looked inside. The only thing that he saw were the linen wrappings. After seeing the evidence, Peter believed. He went away to his home, marveling at what had happened. The evidence confirmed the report that he had heard from the ladies. If the message of the gospel is nonsense to you, but you are still searching like Peter, I want to pray for you right now. I want to pray that God will reveal Himself to you. I want to pray that you will get the same revelation that Peter got at the tomb.

Father God, You tell us if we seek You, we shall find You. I lift up those that hear this message and are seeking You. I ask You to reveal Yourself to them. I ask You to open the eyes of their heart and allow them to find You. I pray that they too would place their trust in You and that You would help them grow and become established in their faith. I ask this I Jesus’ name.

Q & A

- Has the resurrection of Christ been a key part of the gospel message that you share with people? If not, why not?
- Paul mentioned that because of the resurrection of Christ, we have hope. How does the resurrection of Christ give us hope?
- In Romans 8:34, what does Paul mention that Jesus did and is doing since He was raised from the dead?
- Why did Paul want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection above all things? Is that the desire of your heart?

Introduction (Three reasons to look at the resurrection of Christ) (1 Cor 15:12-19, Rom 1:3-4, Heb 6:1-2, Phil 3:8-11)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1. **Key Part of the gospel message** (1 Cor 15:1-4, Rom 10:9-10, Acts 17:18, 17:32, 26:22-23, Acts 1:21-22, 2:30-33, 4:1-3, 4:33)

2. **An Empowered and Transformed Life** (Rom 6:4-11, 1 Pet 3:21-22)

3. **Hope for the future** (1 Pet 1:3-5, 1 Cor 15:20-23)

4. **Stability in our faith** (2 Tim 2:16-19, 1 Cor 15:50-52)

Conclusion and Response (Luke 24:1-12, Rom 10:9-10)

I identify with:

- The Response of the Women**
- The Response of the Apostles**
- The Response of Peter**