**Why the Resurrection is necessary?**

Selected Passages

**Context**

At the start of the NT, Jesus came preaching the kingdom of God. John the Baptist came preaching about the coming of the Messiah. The early church fathers preached the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Men of God through the centuries that followed have been committed to the same glorious good news.

**Matthew 4:17**—From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Matthew 10:7**—And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

**Mark 1:38**—He \*said to them, “Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for.”

**Mark 3:14**—And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach

**Luke 4:18**—“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind

**Acts 10:42**—And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

**Acts 13:32**—And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers.

There is something about preaching that God uses in a specific way to accomplish His work. It is the clarity of communicating and articulating the divine truth through a man whose heart burns with the fire of God’s Word that still has a glorious purpose in God’s economy. Gospel proclamation of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is worthy of every person’s attention. In it is found the meaning and purpose of life.

The resurrection is the most profound event in history. It is not an isolated religious event. It touches the history of the world and the destiny of every single human being who ever lived.

**The Significance of the Resurrection**

1. The significance in relation to the Father

**John 17:11, 13**—I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. … **13**But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.

* 1. Restoring fellowship
     1. He was returning to His Father
     2. Headed back to the glory He had before His condescension

**John 1:1-2**—In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God.

**Philippians 2:6-8**—who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7**but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8**Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

* + 1. The pinnacle of the separation from His Father occurred at the cross

**Matthew 27:46**—About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

**John 14:28**—You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

**John 17:4**—I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

* + 1. His restoration and fellowship would return after the resurrection
  1. Bringing exaltation

**John 17:5**—Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

**John 14:28**—You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

**Philippians 2:9-11**—For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10**so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11**and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

* 1. Verifying the Father’s Word
     1. Jesus came to do the will of His Father
     2. Jesus wants to exalt His Father and put Him on display
     3. Jesus does that by fulfilling the Father’s Word

**Psalm 2:7**—“I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

* + - * 1. This is not in relation to Jesus’ incarnation
        2. It is in relation to His resurrection (begotten again from the dead)

**Acts 13:32**—And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers

**Psalm 16:9-10**—Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. **10**For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

**Acts 13:35**—Therefore He also says in another Psalm, ‘You will not allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.’

**Psalm 110:1**—The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

**Acts 2:34-35**—For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right and, **35**Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”’

1. The significance in relation to the Spirit

**Acts 2:32-33**—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.

* 1. Sending the Spirit to help us to witness

**John 16:7**—But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

**Acts 1:4-5**—Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; **5**for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

**John 15:26**—When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me

**Acts 1:8**—but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

* + 1. The coming of the Holy Spirit is dependent upon the ascension of the Lord Jesus
    2. Any effective evangelism is completely dependent on the Holy Spirit
    3. The power of our testimony and the conviction of one’s sins is dependent on the work of the Holy Spirit
  1. Convicts of sin

**John 16:8-11**—And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; **9**concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; **10**and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; **11**and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

* 1. Instructs the apostles to write

**2 Peter 1:21**—for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**John 14:25**—These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you.

**John 16:13**—But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

**1 John 2:20, 27**—But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know… **27**As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

* + 1. The Spirit gives the apostles the Word
    2. The Spirit give us the illumination we need
    3. The Spirit is the resident Truth-Teacher
  1. Abides with the church

**John 14:16**—I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever

* + 1. He dwells in the church
    2. He empowers the church
    3. He instructs the church
    4. He has come to give the church what it needs to complete the commissioned task

1. The significance in relation to His people

**Romans 4:24-25**—but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, **25**He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

* 1. His atoning work, including His resurrection affords us our justification
     1. Justification—The act of God declaring men free from guilt and acceptable to Him; abjuring to be righteous, justification[[1]](#footnote-1)
        + 1. Christ was raised as the One who bore our sins
          2. He alone paid the price for our salvation
          3. He was raised that we might be declared just
          4. The only way God could ever declare us just is when our penalty was paid
     2. As a result, the Father sees us one in Christ so that we are inseparable

**Galatians 2:20**—I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

* + 1. **Follow the logic:** If Jesus died and did not rise, then His penalty paid was not adequate. It did not meet the requirement of the Father. It was not sufficient. He could not conquer death. He did not gain the victory.

But if He did rise, then we are made just through faith.

* + 1. As a result:
       - 1. He has delivered us from sin

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

* + - * 1. We are the recipients of His own righteousness

**2 Corinthians 5:21**—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

* 1. He gives us life

**John 11:25**—Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.

**John 14:19**—After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

**Hebrews 2:14**—Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

**1 Corinthians 15:20**—But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

**Romans 6:4**—Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

* + 1. We are now sensitive to God
    2. Citizens of heaven
    3. Possess divine resources
    4. Delivered from the power of death
    5. Will be physically resurrected
    6. Have an eternal relationship with the living God
  1. Preparing a place for us

**John 14:1-3**—“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2**In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3**If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

* 1. Power for life

**Ephesians 1:19**—and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.

**Philippians 3:10-11**—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.

**Colossians 3:1-2**—Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2**Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

* 1. Intercessor and advocate for His people

**Hebrews 7:25**—Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

**Hebrews 9:24**—For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

**Hebrews 4:16**—Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Romans 8:33-34**—Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; **34**who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

**1 John 1:7-9**—but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8**If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Romans 5:10**—For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

* 1. A King who will return

**Philippians 3:20**—For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

1. The significance in relation to His rejecters
   1. Rejecters are not part of the body (the church)

**Revelation 1:8**—“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**—and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8**dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9**These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10**when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

**Acts 17:30-31**—Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31**because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

* 1. He will return in judgment to judge everyone

**Psalm 9:8**—And He will judge the world in righteousness;  
He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.

**Psalm 96:13**—Before the Lord, for He is coming, For He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness  
And the peoples in His faithfulness.

**2 Timothy 4:8**—in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

**Acts 10:42**—And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

* + 1. If He did not rise, He would not return
    2. If He does not return, there would be no resolution to history
    3. Things would continue as they always have
    4. We are left without hope
  1. When God raised Jesus, it was to validate His work and to enable Him to be the judge of the world

**Acts 2:24**—But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

**Conclusion**

How wonderful it is that He has come to deliver us from sin and to give us life. Those who believe in Him and the work He has accomplished on their behalf are called sons and daughters in the kingdom. Those who reject the message and trust in their own righteousness will die in their sins and be judged accordingly.

My prayer is that everyone who hears the truth of the gospel and the glorious good news that Jesus is alive will burn in their heart with passion to love and serve Him in all things.

**Matthew 22:37-40**—And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38**This is the great and foremost commandment. **39**The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40**On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Acts

John MacArthur, Reasons for the Resurrection, Selected Scriptures, March 26, 1978, gty.org

Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Strong’s G1347 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)