

Victory Over Death
Various Scriptures
The Laurel Center
April 10, 2015

Main Idea: Jesus conquered the last enemy death for all believers when he was raised to life again.

Introduction

In the Good Friday message we considered the power of Jesus over sin when he died upon the cross. Although it looked like a defeat for him and a victory for the devil, it actually was a crushing defeat for Satan. Looks can be deceiving on the battlefield. But that day Jesus defeated Satan and sin.

Now we will look at the importance of resurrection, the linchpin argument for the joy of the believer. It is great have power over sin but it is even greater than power also over death. What everyone else is afraid of or seeks to delay, the believer does not have to fear. Death is the last enemy to be destroyed as Paul puts it. Jesus' victory was complete in those three days. He defeated the three enemies of Satan, sin and death

Text – 1 Corinthians 15:54–58

54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." **55** "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Saturday – The Special Sabbath

Where was Jesus on Saturday?

- Jesus' body was in the two for those three days.
- 1 Peter 3:18-20 suggests to us that Jesus visited Sheol and preached about himself fulfilling the Old Testament types of salvation to those "spirits in prison."
- This passage seems to be referring to at least those who lived before Noah and probably to all the saints of the Old Testament.

1 Peter 3:18–20

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, **19** in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **20** because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience

waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

Where were the disciples on Saturday?

- By Sabbath afternoon they are locked in the Upper Room.
- This shows not the disciples remembered Jesus' teaching about raising in three days.
- They feared captured by the Roman soldiers and crucifixion as Jesus' followers.
- We know that there was a guard posted by the tomb, impenetrable to body snatchers.

Sunday – The Resurrection

Jesus' Resurrection

- Mt 28:1-8, Mk 16:1-8, Lk 24:1-12, Jn 20:1-13
- Jesus first appears to some women in the garden where he is buried. Women were unacceptable as witnesses in a court. That is why the disciples do not initially believe.
- In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Paul shared not only the theology that Jesus died, was buried and rose again on the third day in fulfillment of Psalms 16: 10 and Isaiah 53:10 but also that many witnesses saw Jesus alive after his crucifixion.
- He tells us of two distinct appearance to the disciples and appearing to over 500 disciples at once (probably the ascension) as well as Paul himself on the road to Damascus in Acts 9.
- Next, Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- Next, Jesus appears to the 11 twice: once without Thomas that evening and once with Thomas eight days later.
- Next, Jesus appears to the 11 at a table in the book of Mark.
- Next, Jesus appears to the 11 on a mountainside in Matthew.
- Next, Jesus appears to the 11 by the sea of Tiberius in John.
- Many of the disciples are still alive at Paul's time to ask them about their own eyewitness accounts. These references are historically acceptable.
- These appearances prove that the disciples were not delusional individually and that they did not have a group dream.

The Implications of Resurrection

- Bodily resurrection gives power to those without sin because of Jesus' death on the cross. Because he was raised and defeated death, so also believers will be raised bodily from their graves in the end times.
- The imagery of being "asleep" becomes a euphemism for Christians because death is not the final stage of life anymore. Being bodily dead is like being asleep at night. Some consider this literal understanding of what happens when believers die between their death and resurrection.

- The imagery of the new body and the new creation come from the event of the resurrection. Anyone reading about Jesus' resurrected body sees that it can do things our bodies cannot. The new body will be different from our current bodies.
- Water baptism and its imagery base themselves off of the death burial and resurrection of Jesus. When we are water baptized, we die to our old self and old lifestyle of sin as we are put in the water. We are buried in the water momentarily because death is not forever. Then we are raised up out of the water as new creatures with new bodies to serve God.

Conclusion

As you can see, the death of our Lord, his burial and resurrection are absolutely essential to the Christian faith. If we did not believe that we be raised from death, sin would still have its victory over us because sin causes death. The power of overcoming sin by Jesus and by us through Jesus is only worthwhile because of the power of resurrection. Since curse is reversed and death is a mere doorstep into eternity for the believer in Jesus.

Resurrection is the linchpin of the Christian faith. If we do not believe in it than everything else Jesus did and taught can be called into question. We do not live this life is good people only to die as everyone else. We live this life to serve Jesus because he has given us life beyond physical death. Do not let anyone take the resurrection from you. Learn all you can about it and all of the ways to defend the faith and the resurrection. The resurrection is Jesus' power for us to live out our lives for his glory and join him in glory.