

# The Importance of the Resurrection of Christ

Valleys Family Church Sermon (Family Service)  
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2012

## Intro

- The resurrection of Jesus is unique- it sets Christianity above all the religions of the world. Josh McDowell, 'Evidence that demands a verdict' says:

"All but four of the major world religions are based on mere philosophical propositions. Of the four that are based on personalities rather than a philosophical system, only Christianity claims an empty tomb for its founder.

- Abraham, the founder of Judaism, died about 1900 BC but no resurrection was ever claimed for him.
- The original accounts of Buddha never ascribe to him any such thing as resurrection; in fact, in the earliest accounts of his death, we read that when Buddha died it was "with that utter passing away in which nothing whatever remains behind."
- There is no trace in the Pali scriptures or commentaries of Sakya Muni having existed after his death or appearing to his disciples.
- Mohammed died, June 8<sup>th</sup> 632 A.D. at the age of 61, in the city of Medina where his tomb is visited annually by thousands of devout Muslims. All the millions of Jews, Muslims and Buddhists agree that their founders have never come up out of the dust of the earth in resurrection."
- In summary, He was declared to be God's Son through the resurrection:  
'He was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Rom 1:4)
- So the resurrection displayed who Jesus was, but what relevance does it have for us today? We will tell the story of the resurrection, through words, art and also film and then look at 3 ways it is relevant to us today.
- *Urban Saints, tell the story and draw along.*
- *Miracle Maker excerpt.*

## The importance of the resurrection for us

### OUR PAST- It means that our sins have been punished- the price is paid

- Christ was handed over to death to deal with our sins and raised in order to effect our justification. (Rom 4:25)
- If Christ is not raised then we are still in our sins:  
'If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is empty, and your faith also is empty.... if Christ has not been raised your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.' (1Cor 14:14, 17). But Christ is raised so we are freed from our sins.
- How would we know if the sacrifice for our sins was successful or not if Christ had not risen from the dead?
- **Application-**
- No sin is too bad to be forgiven- blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is seen in extreme hardening of heart where we deny the cross and see it as the work of the devil. Someone in this position does not even want to be forgiven or see the need.
- If God forgives us we must accept it- the bill is paid. See yourself as God does. You are now a saint, not a sinner. See yourself as a saint because that is what you are- 1Cor 1:2 'To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours'
- God will not punish twice over- that would be unjust. Also stop punishing yourself.

### OUR FUTURE- It guarantees our resurrection

- 1Cor 6:14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

- We shall have physical resurrection bodies like His:

And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. 1Cor 15:49

'who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:21)

- And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. (Rom 8:11)

'For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.' (Romans 8:29)

- 1Cor 15:20-23 says 'But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the **first-fruits** of them that are asleep'
- Firstfruits means there are more of the same to come!
- **Application-**
- No more fear of death.

## OUR NOW- It means we have resurrection power in us

- 'I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 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 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. ' - (Eph 1:18-23)
- Rom 8- Law of spirit of life sets us free from law of sin and death- the Holy Spirit in us empowers us to obey God. Sanctification. Gal 5- the fruit of the Spirit.
- Jesus took the penalty of sin on the cross and demonstrated power over sin on our behalf by rising from the dead- sin no longer has power over Him because sin and death are partners in crime and Jesus cannot die again, He has conquered it
- In the same way we are to regard sin as conquered in us- defeated once and for all, and live like we believe it is true.- Read Rom 6:1-14- reckon yourselves dead to sin- i.e. Our flesh was nailed to the cross
- Application- Are you struggling with a particular sin? Sometimes we feel powerless, but we are not powerless- Christ is in us. Start to believe that the power of that sin is broken. Start declaring and behaving like it is. . 'I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react to it.' Charles Swindol. "
- I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be. But I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, 'By the grace of God I am what I am.'" -- John Newton, author of "Amazing Grace"

- **Rom 10:9 "if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved." - stop trusting in other things- good works, religion, ritual, comparisons, heritage, etc.**

## Summary

Jesus resurrection:

- Our past sorted
- Our future sorted
- We have power to live

*Prayer of Committment*

*Song: He has risen*