

# “BY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST”

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The expression “by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” is often mentioned in the N.T.
2. How often do we stop and think about it and what it signifies?
3. That we are made to understand its great spiritual significance is the burden of this study – the fact that we are utterly dependant upon it for our present spiritual welfare and for our future hope.
4. To do so we begin our study with some ---

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. SCRIPTURAL TESTIMONY FIRMING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.

1. At Pentecost:
  - a. Peter preached that God raised him up from the dead, Ac. 2:22-24.
  - b. Peter quoted king David’s O.T. prophecy that God would raise up Christ to set on his throne (i.e., on David’s throne) was then and there being fulfilled, Ac.2:25-32.
2. According to Lk.24:36-51, the risen Lord appeared unto his chosen apostles, communicated with them and officially commissioned them.
3. In Ac.1:1-11 this fact is repeated.
4. His resurrection from the dead was what the apostles preached in carrying out their commission, Ac.4:1,2,33; 17:16-18,30,31.

### B. SOME THINGS DECLARED TO BE AND/OR MADE POSSIBLE BY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.

1. According to Rom.1:3,4, “by the resurrection from the dead,” he was “declared to be the Son of God with power...” Cf. Ac.2: 32-36.
  - a. His resurrection from the dead is spoken of as the display to the world of Christ being so appointed or determined.
  - b. Once again in Rom.1:3,4 we have both his humanity and his deity affirmed.
    - (1) He “was made of the seed of David according to the flesh” – his humanity.

- (2) "...by the resurrection from the dead," he was "declared to be the Son of God with power..." -- his deity.
2. According to 1Pet.3:21, "by the resurrection of Jesus Christ...even baptism doth also now save us..."
- a. Note the obvious, vital and necessary connection or spiritual relationship between baptism and salvation made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - b. There is a present salvation effected by baptism by virtue of the resurrection of Jesus Christ: "baptism doth also NOW save us."
  - c. Take note of how, when and who in the matter of being saved by baptism.
    - (1) Mk.16:15,16.
    - (2) Ac.2:36-41.
    - (3) Ac.22:16.
    - (4) Ac.16:25-34.
    - (5) Ac.10:1-6; 11:12-14; 10:34-48.
    - (6) Ac.19:1-5.
  - d. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead our present salvation, or remission of our past sins, would not be possible.
3. According to 1Pet.1:3,4, "by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" – "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" – "hath begotten us again unto a lively (living) hope."
- a. It is not affirmed here that we are "begotten again" (that is, not unto our present salvation or remission of past sins by means of the "new birth" of Jno.3:3-7); but that we are or have been "begotten again unto a living hope," i.e., hope of future salvation.
  - b. It's a hope that liveth through or by means of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; a life in which hope is the energizing principle; begotten to the hope of a new life after death.
  - c. Proof of which is stated in Vv.4,5.
  - d. This is the living hope of the Christian. See Rom.8:24,25; Heb.6:11-20.
  - e. For emphasis: Three questions and answers from 1Pet.1:3-5 pertaining to this living hope of the Christian.
    - (1) What or who gives us this hope? V.3.

- (a) It is God who does this, “according to his abundant mercy.”
  - (b) The living, loving, merciful God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, his Son, has given a firm foundation for a living hope; the resurrection of Christ being the sure evidence of Christ’s atonement for our sins has been accepted, and that in him and him alone we can hope.
- (2) Who can entertain this hope with assurance? V.5.
- (a) It is those who are kept (guarded) by the power of God through faith unto salvation.
  - (b) The only assurance and certainty in this living hope springs from maintaining one’s faith – faith in God and his mercy, and in Christ’s life and work. Cf. Rev.2:10; 22:14; 2Pet.1:10,11.
- (3) What does this hope bring? V.4.
- (a) With assurance what we hope for is both “reserved in heaven” for us, and “ready to be revealed in the last time,” V.4b; V.5b.
- f. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ there is no hope for future salvation.
4. According to 1Cor.15:20-23, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead
- a. Cf.Ac.24:15; Rom.5:12-19.
  - b. Christ is called “the firstfruits of them that slept” – i.e., as the first one recalled to life of them that have fallen asleep.
  - c. In 1Cor.15:20,22 the phrase seems also to signify that by his case the future resurrection of all who have died is guaranteed; because the first-fruits are, as it were, a pledge and promise of the rest of the harvest.
  - d. Here again, we are taught that without the resurrection of Jesus Christ there would be no resurrection of the rest of the dead; for by him and him alone it is made possible!

### III. CONCLUSION

1. One thing for sure the scriptures testify to the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

2. The apostles, as the ambassadors of Jesus Christ, who were witnesses of the risen Lord, preached a risen Lord, not simply a crucified and buried Jesus.
3. The great spiritual significance of the expression “by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” and the fact that we are utterly dependent upon it, for both our present and future hope, is made evident by these four great truths we have discussed.
  - a. “By the resurrection from the dead” he was “declared to be the Son of God with power,” Rom.1:3,4.
  - b. “By the resurrection of Jesus Christ”... “even baptism doth also now save us.”
  - c. “By the resurrection of Jesus Christ” ...”the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” ... “hath begotten us again unto a living hope.”
  - d. “By the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” as “the first-fruits of them that slept,” we have the assurance that all who have died shall be made alive, or will be raised from the dead.
4. Is it any wonder then that the apostles of Jesus Christ went to all the world preaching “the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” and what it meant to sinners throughout the world both here and hereafter?
5. In view of this, may we never forget the spiritual significance of “the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”