



## **THE WORK OF CHRIST**

### **LESSON 10**

#### **THE RESURRECTION**

That which made atonement possible was Jesus' life and his death upon the cross as the work of God for man's salvation. His **RESURRECTION** is what proved that atonement had happened, that it was possible that God's promises were true. The resurrection was the supreme sign, bestowed by God, that his purpose of the ages had been accomplished in Christ.

#### **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION**

The resurrection of Christ formed the core of the apostle's sermons (to a far greater extent than the cross), because it represented the vindication of all that had gone before. Jesus, teaching and claims, his "obedience unto death" and his disciples' faith and hopes, were all proved true by this act of God in which Christ had victory over Satan and death (Acts 2:24; 4:33; 5:32; 13:23, 34; 2 Timothy 1:10).

##### **1. Resurrection Is Proof Of Jesus' Divinity**

The resurrection is proof that God's faithful servant is the promised Messiah. As such, it proved Jesus' deity and confirmed His appointment as the final judge of all men (Is. 53:10-12; Acts 2:36; 3:13-15; 5:31; 10:40-42; 17:31; Romans 1:4).

##### **2. Resurrection Is Proof That The Atonement Is Complete**

The resurrection was God's stamp of approval upon Jesus' obedience and death as a complete atonement for sin, and as the fulfilment of the promises made in the past. As a result, salvation and forgiveness of sins are now proclaimed in the name of Jesus. The resurrection was thus the motivation for the spreading of the Gospel (Acts 5:31; 12:32, 33, 38; Romans 4:24, 25).

##### **3. Resurrection Confirms Jesus Is Interceding For Us Now**

The resurrection confirmed believers in their faith in God and His power, and gave assurance of ultimate full salvation. Christ's risen life continues to save us, because Jesus is now our High Priest in heaven. He is interceding for us and perfecting the work of redemption in us (Romans 5:10; Hebrews 6:20; 7:16, 23-25; 1 Peter 1:21).

##### **4. Resurrection Is The Sign That All Believers Will Be Raised To New Life**

Christ's resurrection is the sign and pledge of the resurrection of the body, for all who are in Christ. It gives the Christian a new attitude to death and transforms his hope (1 Cor. 15:12-58; Acts 26:23; Romans 8:10, 11; 1 Peter 1:3).

##### **5. Resurrection Of Jesus Helps Our Sanctification Now**

In believers' baptism by immersion, the Christian is identifying with Christ by "dying to sin" (under the water) and "rising to new life in Christ" (coming out of the water).



This identification continues as the Christian lives his/her life daily for Christ and becomes more like Christ (sanctification). The power and hope to do this is because of Jesus' resurrection (Romans 6:3-11; 2 Cor. 4:10, 11; Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 3:1-4).

### **EVIDENCES FOR THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION**

The following are the main arguments used to prove that the resurrection did occur:

1. The revolutionary change in the attitude of the disciples. The minds of most were not disposed to believe it and they had apparently failed to understand Jesus' prophecies about it.
2. The failure of the Jews to produce Jesus' body. The excuse of the "stolen body" is ludicrous, considering the precautions taken by the authorities.
3. The appearances to a successive series of individuals and groups at a variety of times and in differing circumstances (Matt. 28; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24; John 20).
4. The survival and growth of the infant church and its impact on the world's civilisations.

### **THE RESURRECTION BODY OF JESUS**

What was Jesus' body like when he rose from death? We are warned in (1 Corinthians 15:35-44) that a complete understanding is beyond the scope of human knowledge.

From the gospel story, we learn that the body of Jesus had undergone a remarkable change so that he was not easily recognised and could suddenly appear and disappear in a surprising manner (Luke 24:31, 36; John 20:13, 19; 21:7). It was, nevertheless, a material and very real body (Luke 23:39). He partook of food, though whether of necessity is not clear. He also bore marks of the wounds he had received. This does not conflict with 1 Cor. 15:50, for "flesh and blood" is a description of human nature in its present material state. But the change that takes place in believers is not only bodily but also spiritual. Jesus was endowed with new qualities perfectly adjusted to his future heavenly environment. Through the resurrection he became the life-giving spirit (1 Cor. 15:45).

The truth appears to be that Jesus re-occupied the human body in which he suffered, but from the outset this resurrection body had different properties. In his state of exaltation, Jesus still possesses his body, but in a spiritual, transfigured form. It is useless for the human mind to speculate on detail.

The resurrection is a major element in the work of redemption and therefore, of the Gospel. It is one of the great foundation stones of the Church of God. The atoning work of Christ, if it was to be effective at all, had to terminate not in death, but in life. Furthermore, it was the Father's seal on the completed work of Christ, the public declaration of its acceptance. In it, Christ passed from under the law. Finally, it was his entrance on a new life as the risen and exalted Head of the Church, and the universal Lord.



## **THE ASCENSION**

After the resurrected Jesus had been on earth for 40 days, he ascended into heaven (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:2, 9-11). Why did he not stay and help the disciples and the infant church? The apostles taught that Jesus' ascension and presence with God is the culmination of Jesus' work of redemption. He had to appear before God as the forerunner of the redeemed race. He also is doing a vital work on behalf of his followers as their mediator before God. Also, it was not until Jesus returned to heaven that the Holy Spirit would come to his followers (John 7:38, 39; 14:25, 26; 16:7, 13; Acts 2:33).

### **Question 1:**

From John 19:38-42, Matthew 28:62-66, Luke 23:50-56, summarise the events after Jesus died.

### **Question 2:**

What does "resurrection" mean? Summarise the events recorded in Luke 24:1-12.

### **Question 3:**

Reread the third evidence for the fact of the resurrection given in the notes. Read the Biblical references and list the people who saw Jesus and their location.

### **Question 4:**

Why is the Resurrection proof of Jesus' divinity?

### **Question 5:**

What is the meaning of Baptism, as explained by Paul in Romans 6:3-11? What has it to do with Jesus' resurrection and our sanctification?

### **QUESTION FOR GROUP STUDY:**

Why did Jesus return to heaven after his resurrection and not stay on earth? What, to you, is the most significant thing about Jesus' resurrection? What effect does the resurrection have on you now?