

Christian Study

Lesson 240

Be Light

Focusing on Church beyond Sunday

How Can I Know and Understand What the Bible Means?

Understanding the Basic Gospel

The Resurrection

God's Final Proof

A moment of reflection

Before you start your study pray and ask God to show you the importance of the resurrection of Christ and its meaning to you today.

We would ask you to turn your Bibles to the Gospel of John and read Chapters 15, 16, and 17. You will hear from the Savior Himself what you are and what you will be when He comes back to take you home

Key Verse; 1 Corinthians 15:16-17

"For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished."

Based on the above passage, our faith as Christians will be a waste of time and our conditions as sinners will not change and ultimately will not be in the presence of God for all eternity. What "still in your sin" means is if the resurrection is just an illusion, a thought process, a theory or you simply do not believe in it as the Sadducees, your faith is of no use, ineffective, and fruitless. Also, this means that all of us be dead spiritually, because the wages of sin is always death, but the gift of God is everlasting life that was given to every believer through the resurrected life of Christ

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has come under the most careful scrutiny of men, from the New Testament times to the present day. Legal minds have examined the evidence,

historians have examined the facts and testimonies of those who have reported the event, and others have written books concerning the relevance of the resurrection.

These have affirmed that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a well established historical fact. To those who know Christ as personal Lord and Savior, the resurrection is the vital cornerstone to the validity and assurance of their salvation

The Prophetic Testimony of Jesus Christ Concerning His Resurrection

In the sixteenth chapter of the gospel of Matthew, the twenty-first verse, Jesus tells His disciples what must happen to Him. He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things from the elders, the chief priests and scribes. Be killed and be raised the third day. **Matthew 17:22-24** "22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful. 24 When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?"

Dr Luke also records what will take place. **Luke 9:22** "saying: "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised the third day."

Christ's death and resurrection prophesied in the Old Testament (**Psalm 22**) is also explained in the gospel of Luke. **18:31-34** "31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." 34 But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken."

According to all these above evidence, that Christ's death was not an accident, and a surprise to the Father. The fact that He came to save us from eternal death and separation from God since and the wages of our sin is death, He had to die to take care of sin and most important rise up again in order that we will have that eternal life promised. If there was no resurrection of Jesus Christ then what He (Jesus) said in John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have *it* more abundantly" would be another of His lies or some empty words for Him to look good.

Jesus mentioned that He was going to destroy the temple and build it back up in three days. **John 2 :18-22** "18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said." Their understanding of what Jesus was saying was understood by the apostles at Pentecost after the Holy Spirit descended on them. If Christ had clearly stated that He would rise from the dead and failed to do so, then we would conclude that He is a liar and not believe any of what He said about the Kingdom of God, God Himself and all what He said about Himself.

The Resurrection Account

Matthew 28:1-11 'Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." 11 While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place."

The first to discover that the empty tomb were two women. After a great earthquake occur and the most important thing was that the earthquake did not rolled the stone away but it was the angel from Heaven who rolled it and then sat on it. Notice in verse ten that the women did not take upon themselves to go and explain what had happened, it was the risen Christ Himself who gave them instructions not to be afraid and to go and tell His brothers to go wait for Him in Galilee where they will see Him in person and will be able to see His hands and His side. Here is another conclusion that the resurrection was not something in the mind. It actually took place and here on earth. Even the guards could not deny this event. They too went and told those who did not believe He has risen from the dead.

The Fact of the Resurrection

Key verse; Romans 1:3 - 4

"concerning His Son, who came of *the* seed of David according to the flesh, **4** who was declared Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of *the* dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,"

We read about two natures of Jesus in the above passage. Bible students have used this passage to describe Jesus the carpenter's son who lived a normal human life, performed miracles such as turning water into wine, feeding thousands, healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind and even raising the dead and Jesus the God, who died in our place to take away the sin of the world, was buried and rose the third day so that all who believe that He did all these things will have everlasting life in the presence of God the Father.

Preparation of the Body of Christ

John 19:38 -40 "After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away the body of Jesus. **39** And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. **40** Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen strips with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury."

John tells us that the body of Jesus was bound in linen and approximately one hundred pounds of myrrh and olives. Jewish burial custom included washing and straightening the body. The body was then wrapped tightly from armpits to ankles in one-foot strips of linen. Myrrh and olives were placed between the folds serving as a preservation and cement which glued the wrappings into a solid binding. The face cloth (John 20:7) was wrapped around the head with the ends interlocked. John's account (**Chapter 20:6 -8**) suggests that Peter and his companion were shocked, surprised and alarmed by the sight of the undisturbed grave clothes which Jesus had simply passed through.

The stone used to close the tomb was for protection against both men and beast. It usually required several men to move it. Since the one rolled to the entrance of Jesus' tomb was intended to prevent an unexpected theft, it was probably larger than what would normally have been used. The method of sealing the stone at Jesus' tomb was probably by a cord stretched across the stone and sealed at each end. The sealing was done in the presence of the Roman guard who were left in charge to protect this stamp of Roman authority and power. Anyone trying to move the stone from the tomb entrance would have to break the seal and thus incur the wrath of Roman law.

The Roman guard assigned to watch the tomb was a rank of four or more soldiers highly trained and disciplined in their service. They were well armed and under strict orders to maintain constant surveillance over the tomb. They were quite diligent in their duty, since failure in their assignment could result in death.

In light of the enormous stone covering the entrance, the official Roman seal over the stone, and the quantity and caliber of the Roman guard watching the stone, it is unfeasible that anyone could have tampered with the tomb or the body of Jesus

Read Matthew 27:59 - 60 and Luke 23 53

It is no secret, what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you.

Our mission is to help people find strength and security on the foundation that can never be shaken, cracked or shattered. This foundation is the remarkable truth of God's unconditional love and His indisputable grace experienced in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The critics of Christianity have launched a full attack to discredit the person and works of Jesus Christ and the reliability of His word. We cannot be silent anymore. Let us as children of light, stand firm in the faith, because He who has taken us this far will never forsake us. You are called Christians, be careful of that name. Let not our Lord Jesus Christ be blasphemed on your account

Believe this, "Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people live."

Keep It Simple

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

If you have any questions, comments or you know anybody else who will benefit from this study please feel free to give us their email address and they will be added to our mailing list to receive weekly lessons. The email address is santigiemandol@yahoo.com,

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle (Ephesians 5:8)

Let's go light another candle