

The Implications of Christ's Resurrection for the Believer

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(Not preached in 1995--just did Eph. 1-2)

Overview

1. What does the resurrection of Christ mean to us? (Objective)
Christ has risen for us.
 - a) Rom. 1:4, his power: "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead"
 - b) Rom. 4:25, proof of our justification: "who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."
 - c) Phil. 2:9, evidence that God is pleased with his Son's obedience: "he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him"
 - d) Acts 17:31, assurance of his authority to judge: God "hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by [that] man whom he hath ordained; [whereof] he hath given assurance unto all [men], in that he hath raised him from the dead."
2. What does the resurrection of Christ mean IN us?
(Subjective)
The Apostle claims not just that Christ rose FOR us, but that we ourselves are risen with him. Review the texts that teach this in the three phases of our life:
 - a) In Justification, we are raised from spiritual death to spiritual life.
 - b) In Sanctification, the character of our lives changes from rebellion against God to new life with him.
 - c) In Glorification, we shall one day be freed from the shackles of the flesh.

A. Justification, Eph. 1:19-2:10

1. In 1:19 Paul prays that they might understand God's power toward believers. Then he goes on in the following vv. to expound it.
2. The Power defined, 1:20-23: The resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Note the three outcomes of this resurrection:
 - a) 20b-21, he is seated at the Father's right hand in heavenly places, far above all earthly and angelic power.
 - b) 22a, if he is ABOVE these competing powers, they are UNDER him.
 - c) 22b, In this capacity as "head over all things," God has given him to the church! Our bodyguard, our champion, the one who fights our battles for us; our David, to protect us from the Goliaths of this world.

Thus far, the statement is of Christ's resurrection FOR us. But now Paul goes on to show his resurrection WITH us; not just the greatness of God's power, but the greatness of his power toward us.

3. The Power applied, 2:1-10

B. Glorification

our coming physical resurrection

1. 1 Cor. 15,

C. Sanctification

Several important texts here.

1. Rom. 6:1-11, our Reckoning

2. Rom. 8:9-13, the Spirit's Work

3. Gal. 2:19,20

4. Philippians 3:10