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Section: Divine Covenants (Covenant Theology)

Teacher: Joshua Kirstine

May 8, 2024

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q64. Christ Jesus’ body died on the cross, but did He remain dead?**

No. On the third day, Christ rose physically from the grave!

* **The Resurrection of Christ**

**1689 Confession of Faith:** On the third day he arose from the dead with the same body in which he suffered. In this body he also ascended into heaven, where he sits at the right hand of his Father, interceding.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

Jesus Christ died for sins (Friday) and was raised from the dead (Sunday), all in accordance with the Scriptures. Just as it was foretold it would be.

**Acts 2:24**

**Mark 8:31**

**1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

* **The Evidence of the Resurrection of Jesus**

Scripture is the true and final authority on all matters. Sola Scriptura. God’s word is perfect and unfailing. We don’t **need** reasons outside of Scripture to validate or prove Scripture. We take God at His word because His word is always true.

-God’s word *prophesied* that Jesus would rise from the dead, so it is true. That is enough.

-Jesus Himself *said*, as we see in Scripture, that He would rise from the dead, so it is true. That is enough.

-The inspired Apostles that were commissioned by Jesus and spoke for Him *declared* in Scripture that it happened. That is enough.

* **The Guards**

**Matthew 27:62-66**

The Roman Guard was the elite SOLDIER of the day.

The Latin word used to describe the “Roman Guard” in this text was *koustodia*. This is translated to “custodian,” which in that day meant a “fighting unit of soldiers.”

For Jesus’ body to be taken/stolen under such professional guard would have been impossible for Jesus’s disciples.

* **The Huge Stone**

**Mark 16:1-4**

In Mark 16 the Greek word to describe how it was rolled was *anakulio*. This is translated: “to roll up a slope or incline.”

In John Chapter 20, a different Greek word is used (*Airo*) to describe the stone being moved.  This word is translated: “to pick something up and carry it away.”

There is a reason why God includes the details in His word about the stone--to help us see the power of God at work.

The stone wasn’t rolled away so Jesus could get out. He is God. The stone was rolled away so others could get it and see that he was indeed risen and not there!

* **Eyewitness Accounts**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

The biggest evidence we have that Jesus Christ did indeed rise from the dead is the account, the reaction and changed lives of those who were most devoted to Him!

It’s not the fact that these people saw the resurrected Jesus that is enough; it is the fact that it transformed them and propelled them to live utterly different lives.

There was and continues to be no motive apart from the truth that true followers of Christ continually, without explanation, pursue the Good News of Jesus in the face of major turmoil and death and do not recant.

* **The Tomb Was Not Enshrined**

The greatest man who ever lived, the most influential figure in all of human history didn’t have a funeral. **Because He was not there.**

Jesus does not have this kind of place of memorial—there is no verified place to go see His tomb.

They didn’t enshrine this great man at His tomb. **Because He was not there.**

**Q65. Why is it important that Jesus rose from the grave?**

All authority for salvation is granted to Jesus in His resurrection. Without His resurrection, faith in Christ would be useless—no one would be redeemed from sin.

If we stop at the cross, we stop with an incomplete view of our new life with God.

Salvation is not just the removal of our sin--not just the payment of our sin. The payment Jesus made on the Cross for our sins makes possible for us to have new life with God. **It is the justification for the elect to be reborn and to live in righteousness for His glory.**

- No longer do we stand on our own merit but on Christ.

- No longer are we shamed or condemned by our sins, but they are not counted against us.

- No longer are we enslaved to selfishness but instead in new life-- in resurrected life-- we are empowered to glory and love.

* **Our Salvation Is Grounded in the Resurrection**
* **Our New Birth (Regeneration) Is Grounded in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

Scripture teaches that new birth--God's supernatural, monergistic act whereby the Spirit makes us new creatures in Christ, replacing our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh and giving us saving faith--is only a reality for us because Jesus is risen.

**1 Peter 1:3**

**Ephesians 2:5-6**

Christ's resurrection is the very basis and means by which we are born again.

* **Our Belief and Justification Is Grounded in the Resurrection of Christ**

The resurrection of Jesus is a cornerstone of what we believe about our all-powerful God. It is God alone who creates the world, who breathes into existence life and raises the dead. This is the God on whom our faith is grounded.

**Romans 4:23-25**

**Belief is a necessary part of our salvation.**

- It is not just belief that Jesus is God who put on flesh and lived

- It is not just belief that Christ satisfied God’s wrath as our substitute on the Cross

- It is belief that God did in fact raise Jesus from the dead

**If Christ is not resurrected, our faith in God’s saving grace is futile, for He didn’t even raise the Son He sent to accomplish victory over death.**

**1 Corinthians 15:17**

* **Our Sanctification Is Grounded in the Resurrection of Christ**

**Romans 6:1-14**

Paul explains that we can "walk in newness of life" because Christ was raised from the dead. We are not to continue in sin, for how, as Paul asked, "can we who died to sin still live in it?"

**Christ died to sin, and so also must we consider ourselves dead to sin.**

Christ also came back to life. The life He lives He lives to God. Therefore, as those who are in Christ, we are alive to God. No longer are we to walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

None of this is possible if Christ remains in the tomb. Only because He has risen do we have the assurance, confidence, and ability to now walk in godliness.

* **Why Is the Resurrection of Jesus Good News?**

Because of Jesus’ perfect, sinless life; substitutional, sacrificial death; and victorious resurrection from the grave, we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone from the eternal wrath we deserved and are reconciled into an eternally secure relationship with God.

He is the prize of our salvation and the reason why the GOOD NEWS is so good!

**John 11:25**