

11/8/23

Romans 1:4, The power of the resurrection

**Lord, we thank you that we can come into your presence through our Risen Redeemer, Jesus Christ your Son. We seek your face now, asking you to give us grace and power to face the wrath of the wicked against your people. Enlighten our minds and understanding, strengthen our faith and give us rest in our day of great unrest that is created by the wicked. Bless us with your confidence in our hour of need as we study your word. In Jesus name, amen**

**Romans 1:1** *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 And declared [to be] the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: 4. And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

The resurrection is the very foundation of the Christian faith, so we will spend more than one lesson here. Without the resurrection, the birth of Christ is only a good bedtime story.

*Declared to be the Son of God*

Son of God is not a title. It is His nature. Christ was not predestinated to be the Son of God, nor did the resurrection make him the Son of God. Christ did not become the Son of God.

Christ was the Son of God before the foundation of the world. He is the Son as defined in the **everlasting covenant** mentioned in **Hebrews 13**. We will look at that covenant in due time.

The Son of God from the everlasting past:

• **Colossians 1:14** *In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or*

*principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

• **1 Timothy 3:16** *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

In John 14:8-11, we see that though Christ did many wonderful things to prove that He was God incarnate in the flesh, even his decuples doubted him. Commenting on Romans 1:4, Charles Hodge, 1797-1878, said,

**“It was not until Christ had risen that the evidence of his Sonship was complete, or the fulness of its import known even to the apostles. ... It was by the resurrection that he was proved to be the Son of God who will judge the world in righteousness.... Christ had openly declared himself to be the Son of God, his rising from the dead was the seal of God to the truth of that declaration.”**

The resurrection was the final proof of Christ’s claim of his diving nature, and that he is the altogether righteous Son of God who is able to break the power of sin and death.

The resurrection provided He is the diving Logos from the beginning.

The resurrection proved that the Son of God gave his life **not for his own sins**, but for the sins of his people. Romans 3:24, Ephesians 1:4, Colossians 1:4, &c.

Christ the Son of God had the power to lay down his life, and take it up again, according to the Father’s good will.

• **John 2:19-22** *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21 But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.*

V. 22 tells us that it was not until the resurrection that the decuples fully understood he was the diving Son of God.

• **John 10:17** *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

Jesus Christ had the power over his own life both to lay it down and take it up again.

## **1 Corinthians 15.**

The issue at hand here is not the state of the soul after death, but the bodily resurrection of the believer. Paul tells the Corinthians that failure to believe in the bodily resurrection of the believer rejects the resurrection of Christ. They are inseparably tied together.

The Nicene Creed clearly states that the Christian religion requires the bodily resurrection of the believer.

In Matthew, Christ warned his disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. The *Sadducees* said there is no resurrection.

Moreover, during the first century, Gnosticism (*gnosis* in the Greek) was gaining influence into the Christian religion. Gnosticism basically held that salvation only included a spiritual soul, not a physical body. In other words, the Gnostic heresy says that the resurrection of the believer was only spiritual, and the body remained in the grave. That heresy has been a bane on the church from the beginning.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul is dealing with the denial of the general resurrection of the dead.

• **2 Timothy 2:18** *Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*

Some years ago, I was invited to speak a preterist conference in Dayton OH. The preterist view teaches that all eschatological prophecies have been fulfilled—that is, the resurrection was fulfilled when many of the saints were raised from the dead when Christ rose from the dead, **Matthew 27:52**. They also teach that the second coming was fulfilled in 70 AD.

James Russell's "The Parousia" presents the Preterist position.

**Romans 1:4** *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

In **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**, Paul tells the Corinthians that the risen Christ was not only seen by the apostles, but he was seen by more than five hundred brethren at one time. And many of those brethren were still alive at that time.

Yet with all the eye-witness accounts of the risen Christ, some still denied the truth of the resurrection.

As the saying goes, there are none so blind as those who do in want to see, or "Don't confuse me with the facts."

• **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

*12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith [is] vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

Starting in v. 12, Paul lists **six consequences** of denying the bodily resurrection of the Saints and thus denying the resurrection of Christ. You cannot have the one without the other. The two are inseparable. A head without a body.

V. 14 *And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain.*

**The first** consequences is that the preaching of the cross is empty, groundless, void of all truth, reality and power. The Christian faith is left with no power to save. The object of preaching is to cause the sinner to repent and trust in the resurrected Son of God.

That faith is the basis of our deliverance from the power of sin. The purpose of that deliverance is so we can live a holy life pleasing to God.

• **Ephesians 1:4-6** *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that **we should be holy and without blame** before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

By faith alone in Christ, we are delivered from the power of sin so we can do all things for the glory of God. **Faith alone** provides deliverance from the power and everlasting penalty of sin. **Faith alone** provides a clear conscience, and provides fellowship with the Father.

**Christ's power to save is based in his resurrection.** His resurrection proved that his sacrifice was accepted by God the Father for the redemption of his people.

V. 15 *Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.*

**The second consequence** is that Paul's message was a lie, *we are found false witness*. Obviously, the "**we**" expands to all preachers, teachers and all who witness for the gospel of Christ to others.

V. 16 *For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:*

**The third consequence** is that there is no salvation, no hope. ***For if the dead in Christ rise not,*** then Christ is still in the tomb, and there is no redemption.

V. 17 *And if Christ be not raised, your faith [is] vain; ye are yet in your sins.*

**The fourth consequence** is that without Christ's resurrection, the Christian faith powerless to deliver from the power and condemnation of sin.

Faith in Christ's resurrection which is tied to the confidence of the bodily resurrection, is necessary for our justification: if Christ did not rise, we are not justified. Hence, to believe that there is no resurrection of the body, is to deny the atonement and redemption.

• **Romans 4:21-25** *And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 ¶ Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, **if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead**; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

V. 18 *Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.*

**The fifth consequences** of not believing in in bodily resurrection of those dead in Christ is that all the fell asleep in the faith are perished.

• **1 Thessalonians 4:14** *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

• **Revelation 14:13** ¶ *And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed [are] the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

Without the resurrection of Christ, we have no advocate before the Just and holy Father.

Annihilation of the soul is not in Scripture. Without the resurrection, all men are lost in destruction.

V. 19 *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

**The sixth** consequence is *misery*

The believer is *of all men most miserable*.

Hodge: “**Not only the future, but even the present is lost, if Christ be not risen. Not only did the departed sink into perdition when they died, but we, who are alive, are more miserable than other men. This is the last conclusion which the apostle draws from the denial of the resurrection. ... That is, if all the good we expect from Christ is to be enjoyed in this life, we are more miserable than other men.**”

Man has meaning, no future without the Resurrection. Man will go on repeating his sin.

**No hope, misery.** Suicide is rampant everywhere the Christian hope has been destroyed.

**A record of nearly 50,000 Americans, mostly men, died by suicide in 2022**

Nearly 50,000 Americans committed suicide in 2022, the "highest number ever recorded in the United States," according to provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which shows that the majority of suicides were men.

[https://www.christianpost.com/news/a-record-number-of-americans-died-by-suicide-in-2022.html?uid=\\*\[UNIQID\]\\*&utm\\_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm\\_campaign=CP-Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.christianpost.com/news/a-record-number-of-americans-died-by-suicide-in-2022.html?uid=*[UNIQID]*&utm_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm_campaign=CP-Newsletter&utm_medium=email)

Suicide is rampant in the military. Lives and money are being wasted in useless wars with no goal in mind.

**Without the resurrection, there can be no progress in history** and man is doomed to be captive to the past. Only Christ's resurrection can break from the past. Only the risen Christ can set man free from the miseries and from the curse of sin so he can accomplish the purpose of the creation.

Life has no meaning without the resurrection.

Without the resurrection man has no future. The world has no hope except to descend into everlasting tyranny and chaos, a world delivered into the hands of the devil himself.

• **1 Peter 5:8** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

• **1 John 5:19** *[And] we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. 20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, [even] in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

• **1 John 3:8** *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

The resurrection proved Christ destroyed the devil's power.

**We watched an interview with Alex Jones by Tucker Carlson.** Tucker pointed out that the many things Alex had forecast came to pass, including his forecast of the 9/11 attack. He warned but no one would listen. Alex said he simply reads the endless pages of documents that are available, listens to those with information, and follow the implications to their obvious conclusions.

Alex said that the “powers” of this world want to be gods and create life, even if that life is **AI**, Artificial Intelligence. They cannot create life, but they can create death, so they love death.

The “powers” desire to be as god and control absolutely everyone and everything on earth, and they have the future planned out in great detail, which involves massive death and destruction.

**The “Great Reset”** means to destroy everything, and start all over again according to their perfect plan for humanity. Those plans are available through the UN if someone wants to search.

**The interview is at** [https://www.wnd.com/2023/12/watch-tucker-carlson-interviews-alex-jones/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=wnd-breaking&utm\\_campaign=breaking&utm\\_content=breaking&ats\\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3&ats\\_ess=62275c4f6eb5e1c6872faec264ac18ae89396dd486d6b98af038d9fef2e3c00d](https://www.wnd.com/2023/12/watch-tucker-carlson-interviews-alex-jones/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3&ats_ess=62275c4f6eb5e1c6872faec264ac18ae89396dd486d6b98af038d9fef2e3c00d)

**Proverbs 8:36** *But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.*

Note that the more the wicked hate God, the more they love death.

Without the resurrection of the saints, we have no resurrection of Christ. Without the resurrection of Christ, we are left with no hope outside of this life, no purpose in life except to eat, drink and be merry, for there is no tomorrow we die.

However, man's created purpose in the Garden was to take dominion of the earth under God.

Man failed. The resurrected the Second Man Adam, Jesus Christ enables man to press ahead in his dominion work under God.



As a result of Christ's resurrection and enthronement at the Right hand of the Father, man is renewed in his created responsibility.

1 Corinthians 15 ends with the promise of victory over the world, flesh and the devil through power and authority of the resurrected Christ.

• **Vv. 20-28** *But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then [cometh] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy [that] shall be destroyed [is] death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under [him, it is] manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.*

**V. 28 The future belongs to Christ, not to the anitchrist.** The resurrection means that history must move ahead to the total victory of the Kingdom of God, which is the fulfillment of the promise the Father made to the Son in

**Psalms 110:1** *«A Psalm of David.» The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

The God ordained way of claiming the future for Christ is not only preaching the gospel to the nations, but training up the future generations in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. **Parents control the future.** They either let the kingdom of darkness train their children in the fine arts of sin, lies and rebellion, or train them in the ways of the kingdom of his dear Son, the kingdom of light. Christian homeschooling and sound Christian school will control the future for the Kingdom of God.

Christ commanded us to take that message of hope to the hopeless world.

Lord willing, next time we shall deal with the **power of the resurrection in man and in nature.**

Let us pray

**We thank you Lord that Christ has risen from the dead, and has broken the power of sin and death. We thank you that we have been made members of the body of Christ, and we have been made to share in his victory. We look forward to the overthrow of the evil powers of this world and the advancement of your kingdom over the earth. Give us confidence that in you we have the victory over the eternal death, and the privilege of enjoying you forever. Make us joyful every day in our certainly of your victory. Make us ever mindful that Christ our Lord is risen, and we have victory in him. In Jesus name, amen.**