

# WHAT DIED WHEN CHRIST AROSE

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,54-57

## INTRODUCTION

- One literary element which makes a story great is a *plot twist*, where the story makes a dramatic and unexpected turn
- The Bible is full of fascinating plot twists:
  - ✓ The story of Joseph
  - ✓ The book of Ruth
  - ✓ The accounts of David and Solomon
  - ✓ Jesus' parables
  - ✓ The conversion of the apostle Paul
- But the greatest plot twist in history is found in the gospels—the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- His resurrection should not have been unexpected to anyone, as there were many *spoilers* given
- Jesus himself foretold his death and resurrection many times, both to his disciples and to his enemies
- David prophesied of Jesus' resurrection from the dead 1000 years prior (Psalm 16:10)
- Nevertheless, few truly believed it could happen, but it did, and when it did, it changed everything.
- In that victory he brought life from the dead
- But conversely, Christ's resurrection brought *death*—death to all the evils that have plagued humanity since the fall

Consider three enemies that the resurrection put to death:

## I. CHRIST'S RESURRECTION IS THE DEATH OF SIN

- A. An ancient foe
  - 1. 4000 years prior to the coming of Christ, sin entered the world
- B. The magnitude of this foe

1. Sin is at the root of every evil, sickness and misery that man is plagued with, including death
  2. The strength of sin is the law
    - a. Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4)
    - b. By the law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20)
    - c. The law is incapable of giving life to men, only condemning us (Galatians 3:21)
    - d. The law works death in the guilty conscience (Romans 7:9,13)
  3. The magnitude of sin is seen by the price that was required to overcome it (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- C. Christ “was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:25)
1. To be justified is to be declared righteous, and accepted with God
  2. In his sacrificial death, Christ atoned for our sins, and in his resurrection, he completed the work, showing he had conquered sin and death
  3. The resurrection demonstrated that his offering was accepted by the Father, who showed his approval by raising Jesus from the dead
  4. It is the greatest proof possible to the Christian that his sins are indeed fully expiated
- D. Through Christ's death and resurrection, the believer has victory over the power of sin in this life (Romans 6:1-14)
1. Dead to sin (v.2,11)
  2. Walk in newness of life (v.4)
  3. The body of sin destroyed (v.6)
  4. Freed from sin (v. 7)
  5. Sin shall not have dominion over you (v.14)

## **II. CHRIST'S RESURRECTION IS THE DEATH OF DEATH**

- A. What is death

1. Death is the wages and final result of sin (Romans 6:23; James 1:15)
  2. Death does not mean annihilation or cessation of existence, but a *separation* (James 2:26)
  3. Eternal death, or the “second death”, is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14; 2 Thessalonians 1:9)
- B. Christ abolished death (2 Timothy 1:10)
1. Abolish (*katargeo*) means literally to “render inactive”, hence, “to destroy, put away, bring to nought”
  2. This same word is used in Hebrews 2:14 – “through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14)
    - a. From the fall of man in Eden, God promised to bruise Satan (Genesis 3:15)
    - b. “The Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8)
    - c. Satan’s defeat was accomplished through the cross and the empty tomb, and “the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly” (Romans 16:20)
- C. Christ “loosed the pains of death” (Acts 2:24)
1. Death is pictured as a captor who binds his victims with grievous bands
  2. But it was not possible that Christ should be holden of it
- D. He is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26)
1. He not only was resurrected, he *is* the resurrection
  2. He not only has life, he *is* the life (John 14:6)
- E. His resurrection promises that death will finally be “swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54-56; Isaiah 25:8)

### III. CHRIST’S RESURRECTION IS THE DEATH OF FEAR

- A. The world is in bondage through fear of death (Hebrews 2:15)
1. Most people fear death, though they may not admit to it

2. But when confronted with their own mortality—perhaps a terminal illness, or having a close escape from death—that fear comes to the surface
3. People fear the unknown, and death and what follows is unknown to most people, but Christ hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Timothy 1:10)

B. The gospel message is the answer to man's deepest fears

1. The gospel is the glad tidings of a Saviour who died and rose again to redeem us from sin, death and hell (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
2. The believer can face every trial in life, and death itself, without fear (Psalm 23:4)
3. Believers are promised freedom from fear, but disobedience to God will bring the torment of fear (1 John 4:18)

## CONCLUSION

1. The founders of all other religions in the world remain dead and buried
2. Only the tomb of Jesus Christ remains empty
3. The world in this time of crisis and fear, place their hopes in government economic stimuli and vaccines
4. People are turning to alcohol, amusements and false religions in their attempts to assuage their fears
5. There is no greater time for the church to spread the message of *true* hope to a world without hope – that is the message of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ for sinners
6. For the impenitent unbeliever, Christ's resurrection means death—eternal death in the lake of fire
7. God has given assurance to all men that there is a day of judgment coming, by the resurrection of Christ (Acts 17:31)
8. The gospel is both a savour of life, and a savour of death (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)
9. Which one is it to you?