

Resurrection Life

John 11:25-26

Introduction

A Great Contrast

- I. God uses severe affliction to scatter His Church
- II. Spiritually blind people need to be made able to see the risen Christ

I. God uses severe affliction to scatter His Church.

Death apart from Christ *scatters*

Scattering and isolation breeds disorientation, discouragement, confusion, disillusionment, and hopelessness.

When John the Baptist was executed his disciples scattered.

“And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.” Matthew 14:12

When Jesus was crucified His disciples scattered.

Jesus’ death looked like just another pathetic display of human weakness, failure, and inability, which only increased their weakness, fears, insecurity, and uncertainty.

Matthew 26:31

The thought that Jesus’ dead body lay lifeless in the tomb brought everything they hoped for to an end.

The Lord has scattered His Church.

What can be gained by separation, isolation, and reflection?

- 1) **Greater appreciation** – for God’s rich and rewarding purposes in being able to gather freely together to worship Him. The unified dynamics of which are lost when God’s people are scattered.
- 2) **Greater self-sacrifice.** By complying with social distancing, and avoiding all non-essential public activity, the Christian exercises loving restraint, demonstrating Christlike selflessness.
- 3) **Greater faith.** Being separated and isolated forces us to depend fully on the grace of God. It forces us to deal squarely with doubt and uncertainty, something that may lie dormant in quieter more prosperous times. It causes us to examine our faith asking ourselves, ‘What were we *trusting* in?’
- 4) **Greater love.** Being isolated causes us to draw closer to God than ever before, learning to love Him even more for His presence, His promises, His provision, and His protection. It intensifies the love we have for our brothers and sisters. It increases the longing we have to be together again.

- 5) **Greater endurance.** The only way to teach people how to endure hardship is to force them into it.
Hebrews 10:36-38

Resurrected life in Christ *unites*

Unity brings strength, courage, understanding, clarity, joy, comfort, hope, peace, and contentment.

Jesus' resurrection was a divine demonstration of power that gave them hope, self-confidence, and courage to fulfill the divine mandate to be a bold witness for the Gospel.

Romans 1:4

Without the certainty of the resurrection, the Church would have inevitably scattered.

Matthew 28:8

It's not Jesus' death that saves. It's His LIFE!

We have appreciation for the *death* of Christ, but it is the *life* of Christ that is cause for joyous celebration!

II. Spiritually blind people need to be made able to see the risen Christ.

Comfort, peace, and reassurance comes when we are made able to see Jesus for who He is.

John 20:11-18

Luke 24:31-34

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25-26**

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

"Do you believe this?"

This is *the* question we must all answer for ourselves. And the answer we give will set the course for our eternal destiny.

Belief in the resurrection is not a matter of compelling evidence, but of change in the *heart*.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

We come to learn that *accepting the fact* of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a matter of intellectual integrity, but *belief* unto salvation is an issue of the heart.

Unbelief is not something that can be reasoned away, but is something to repent of.

Jesus doesn't mind giving evidence of His death, burial and resurrection (e.g., Thomas vs the Sanhedrin). But He does expect you to *act* upon that unmistakable truth.

In order to believe Jesus as He is – *the resurrection and the life* – one must be able to see Him spiritually.

“a man gets from Christ what he trusts Christ to give him.”

Philippians 3:8-11

The life that we live by faith in Christ is life *in Him*. So then, as He was raised from the dead so will we be.

Romans 6:4-5

Union with Jesus by faith means His crucifixion becomes our crucifixion (cf. Galatians 2:20), so that the promise of His resurrection becoming our resurrection is a “certainty”!

The undisputable fact of the resurrection is our sure hope, hope based upon a divine certainty.

1 Corinthians 15:19-20

The divine unlimited power of the resurrection is our endurance.

"Go your way...for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10

May that one historical fact keep our faith intact. May it evoke unspeakable joy within us, eschewing all doubt and uncertainty, causing us to rejoice forevermore because – *He is risen indeed!*