

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#179)
Our resurrection – inseparable
from Jesus' resurrection.

1

Jesus is everything to us!

Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ is ...

- Our wisdom, righteousness, holiness and redemption – 1 Corinthians 1:30.
- Our peace, breaking down the barrier between Jew and Gentile – Ephesians 2:14.
- Our life – Colossians 3:4.
- Our hope – 1 Timothy 1:1.

Jesus' names, titles and descriptions tell us a lot about him ...

- Not just Son of God, Son of man, Messiah [= Christ], Lord, and Savior; but dozens of other terms.
- Several terms by which he describes himself in the book of Revelation – "Alpha and Omega" (like "A and Z" in our alphabet); "First and Last," "Beginning and End," etc.
- Seven "I am" statements in the book of John. →

2

In the book of John, Jesus describes himself in 7 ways – each starting with the words "I am." Each of them has a special significance.

JESUS DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS ...

- The bread of life – John 6:35, 41, 48, 51, 58.
- The light of the world – John 8:12; 9:5.
- The door/gate for the sheep – John 10:7, 9.
- The good shepherd – John 10:11, 14.
- **The resurrection and the life – John 11:25.**
- The way, the truth, and the life – John 14:6.
- The true vine – John 15:1,5.

JESUS AND OUR RESURRECTION LIFE:
Since he is the resurrection and the life, it is only in him that we can attain these things.

3

The connection between JESUS' RESURRECTION and OUR RESURRECTION:

Our resurrection and life are inseparably bound to his.

NOTE THAT THE "RESURRECTION" CONCEPT MAY REFER TO DIFFERENT THINGS (DEPENDING ON CONTEXT).

- ✓ Jesus' resurrection.
- ✓ The resurrection of all people.
- ✓ The resurrection of saved people.
 - An aspect of resurrection that begins now.
 - The resurrection that will occur in the future.

4

Jesus' resurrection ...

It's a foundational part of the truth about Jesus ...

- The resurrection is part of the Good News message.

... Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.
Acts 17:18b (NIV)
- The resurrection is one of the basic teachings of the faith.

... the basic teachings about Christ ... the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
Hebrews 6:1b, 2b (NLT)

... he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 1:4b (NLT)

[We've already looked at the historical *proof* and *eyewitness accounts* of his resurrection, as well as the testimony of the Old Testament prophets. We are not going to repeat all that here.]

5

It was accomplished by God.

- Many Scripture passages say that *God* raised Jesus. Typically, the contrast here is between God, as the creator, and Jesus, as a human.

... Jesus, whom **God** raised from the dead.
1 Thessalonians 1:10b (NLT)
- Other Scriptures tell us that *Father, Son and Holy Spirit* were all involved in Jesus' resurrection.

... God the **Father** who raised [Jesus Christ] from the dead ...
Galatians 1:1b (CSB)

... **Jesus** replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days **I** will raise it up." ... when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body.
John 2:19b, 21 (NLT)

... he was raised from the dead by the power of the **Holy Spirit**.
Romans 1:4b (NLT)

6

What Jesus' resurrection *proves* about himself.

- He is no longer capable of dying.

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; ***death no longer has mastery over him.***

Romans 6:9 (NIV); see also Acts 2:24.

- He is the Son of God (and not *just* a human).

... and he was ***shown to be the Son of God*** when he was raised from the dead ...

Romans 1:4a (NLT)

- He is the future judge of the world.

"[God] has set a day when ***he will judge the world*** with justice by the man [= Jesus] he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:31 (NIV)

7

Jesus' resurrection affects us.

- It gives us a *living hope* for the future.

Because of his great mercy [God] has given us new birth into ***a living hope*** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ...

1 Peter 1:3b (CSB)

- Christ intercedes for us (whenever Satan condemns us).

Who is there to condemn us? For Christ Jesus, who died, and more than that was raised to life, is at the right hand of God—and ***He is interceding for us.***

Romans 8:34 (BSB)

- It enables us to live for God with *fruitful* (instead of *wasted*) lives.

So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, ***in order that we might bear fruit for God.***

Romans 7:4 (NIV)

8

This applies *only* to those who trust ("believe") God and the significance of Jesus' resurrection.

- We must be willing to acknowledge who Jesus is, and accept (= "believe") the *fact* of the resurrection.

If you ***openly declare*** that Jesus is Lord and ***believe in your heart*** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9 (NLT)

- Those who have this trust are declared righteous (justified) by God!

... us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life ***for our justification.***

Romans 4:24b-25 (NIV)

9

Jesus and the resurrection of ALL people.

Because of his resurrection, all people will be resurrected – whether for life, or for condemnation.

- Some passages have this *general* focus on the resurrection of all people (saved and unsaved) for the final judgment.
- Here is an example of this *general* focus:

"[The Father] has granted the Son authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

"Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out—the ones who have done what is good to ***the resurrection resulting in life***, and the ones who have done what is evil to ***the resurrection resulting in condemnation.***"

John 5:27-29 (NET)

(See also Daniel 12:2, next page.)

10

Because of the resurrection, Scripture often describes physical death as "sleep." We will "wake up" at the resurrection.

- This passage describes all dead people (saved and unsaved) as being "asleep." Someday they will "wake up."

Many sleeping in the ground will ***wake up***. Some will ***wake up*** to live forever, but others will ***wake up*** to be ashamed and disgraced forever.

Daniel 12:2 (GW)

- Even people who were brought back to life during Jesus' miracles were described as being "asleep." EXAMPLE:

[Jesus] told them, "Our friend Lazarus has ***fallen asleep***, but I am going there to wake him up." [They misunderstood him...]

So Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is ***dead*** ..."

John 11:11b, 14 (BSB)

11

Jesus and the resurrection of SAVED people.

(Most Scripture passages have this focus.)

Jesus is the source of our resurrection to life.

- Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life."

John 11:25a (BSB)

- It is *in* and *through* him that *our* resurrection is made possible.

For since death came through a man [= Adam], the resurrection of the dead comes also ***through a man*** [=Christ].

1 Corinthians 15:21 (NIV)

... the apostles were ... proclaiming ***in Jesus*** the resurrection of the dead.

Acts 4:2b (NIV)

12

It will be accomplished by the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

- It will be done by the power of God.

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.
1 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)
- God will accomplish it "with Jesus."

We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.
2 Corinthians 4:14 (NLT)
- Jesus' own resurrection is the guarantee and example of what we can expect (the "firstfruits" of us all).

But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [= who have died].
1 Corinthians 15:20 (CSB)

13

Resurrection life begins NOW for those who are united with Christ!

We must also be united with Christ in his death.

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.
Colossians 2:12 (NLT)

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.
Romans 6:4-5 (NLT)

(Back then, they didn't separate physical baptism from the spiritual act it represented. Today, we often separate them by days, months, or even years. The physical act *still* symbolizes what happens in the heart, but it's usually *not* done at the time when the heart change occurs.)

14

**In the past, we were spiritually dead.
Now, in Christ, we are alive.**

PAST As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.
Ephesians 2:1-3 (NIV)

PRESENT But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.
Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

(More wonderful results are mentioned in verses 6+.)

15

When Christ makes us spiritually alive, we die to our old ways and to the ways of the world.

- Our old ways – consider them "past tense"!

PAST You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away.
Colossians 2:13 (NLT)

PRESENT Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.
- Death to our old ways!

For you died to this life [of sin], and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.
Colossians 3:3 (NLT)

You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world.
Colossians 2:20b (NLT)

Sometimes our problem is that we tend to forget this!

16

This NEW life is not just a "partial reformation."

- In Christ, we are not just "cleaned up" or "reformed" versions of our old selves. **We are "new" in this sense:**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)
- It's the Spirit's life that accomplishes this; our deadness and sin-controlled flesh couldn't do it.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.
John 3:6 (NIV)

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing ...
John 6:63a (NIV)

★ **Choosing to sin is like choosing to move back into deadness!** ★

17

Looking forward to our FUTURE resurrection.

We know what is going to happen.

- The Spirit has given us life... and will give our bodies life, as well.

And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.
The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.
Romans 8:10-11 (NLT)
- This will occur when Jesus returns at the "last day."

"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."
John 6:40 (NIV)

18

- Our bodies will be changed. [This was our focus last time.]

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NIV)

- ★ We will be exchanging what is *temporary* for what is *permanent*! ★

When Jesus returns, what about saved people who *haven't* died?

- We will all live forever with Jesus.

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

1 Thessalonians 5:10 (NIV)

- According to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:
 - ✓ First, the dead will be resurrected when Jesus returns.
 - ✓ Then we who are living will join them.
 - ✓ [If there are differences, they haven't been revealed to us.]

19

Our Mission:

These things are ours because Jesus IS our resurrection and life!

We have part in it when we become united with Christ.

Remember that Jesus is EVERYTHING good in us...

And everything about him is good.

- ✓ He is ... our wisdom, our righteousness, our holiness, our redemption, our peace, our life, and our hope.
- ✓ He is ... the bread of life, the light of the world, the door/gate for the sheep, the good shepherd, **the resurrection and the life**, the way, the truth, and the life, the true vine.
- ✓ Probably 50 more names and titles tell us about him (some of which have a direct application to *our* relationship to him). Even more, if we include Old Testament prophecy.

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★ Jesus is EVERYTHING good in us...
This should influence how we live! ★

It's no joke ... We cannot succeed on our own.

We can do nothing good apart from Jesus.

Consider this other "I am" verse:

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.

For apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5 (NLT)

Do you think you can succeed on your own? Remember what Paul said:

And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.

Romans 7:18a (NLT); see also Romans 3:10-20.

It's only *in Christ* that this sinful nature – also called the "flesh" – can be done away with.

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Credits

SCRIPTURE

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