

Question #11: What Is the Resurrection?*

Jesus Christ's work on our behalf did not just concern his life and death, but He also rose from the dead. His victory over death has given true meaning to the Christian life (1 Cor. 15:14-19).

I. Details of the Resurrection

A. Throughout the New Testament, the writers emphasize Jesus' resurrection.

1. All four Gospels contain detailed accounts of Jesus' resurrection (Matt. 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-21:25).
2. The preaching of the Gospel message in Acts highlights the fact that Jesus rose from the dead (Acts 2:29-35; 4:10; 10:40; 17:31; 26:23).
3. The rest of the New Testament letters assume the fact that Jesus Christ's resurrection serves as the basis for the church (1 Cor. 15:1-11; Eph. 2:4-6; 1 Peter 1:3; Rev. 1:17-18).

B. Jesus' resurrection initiated a new kind of humanity.

1. His resurrection was more than simply coming back to life as others had experienced (Lazarus in John 11:1-44).
2. When He rose, Jesus' body was no longer subject to weakness, aging, or death, but rather He had a body that will live on eternally (1 Cor. 15:53).
3. Yet, his new body was and is still a physical body.
 - a) His disciples were able to physically touch Him (Matt. 28:9; John 20:27).
 - b) Jesus was able to take hold of bread and break it (Luke 24:30), and He ate and drank with disciples after His resurrection (Acts 10:41).
 - c) The Bible clearly teaches that after his resurrection Jesus possessed a real body (Luke 24:39).

II. Results of the Resurrection

A. Christ has earned for believers a future life that is like his own (1 Peter 1:3).

1. We are guaranteed an eternal life with bodies like Christ possesses.
2. While we don't presently have this type of body, we have been made spiritually alive and possess resurrection power.

* The material in this handout is a summary of chapter eleven, "What is the Resurrection?" in Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*, ed. by Elliot Grudem (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 76-78.

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- a) His resurrection power allows us to have present victory over sin in our lives. We can consider ourselves “dead to sin” (Rom. 6:11).
 - b) Sin no longer has dominion over us. It no longer completely controls us (Rom. 6:14).
 - c) We are also empowered by the Spirit to fulfill Christ’s commission (Acts 1:8).
- B. Jesus’ resurrection has placed us in right standing with God (Rom. 4:25).
1. God raising Christ from the dead shows us that He approved of the work that Christ did through his life and death. The penalty for sin was paid, and Christ’s work was complete.
 2. After making purification for sins, Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father. This signifies that his work was complete (Heb. 1:3).
- C. Jesus’ resurrection also guarantees our resurrection (1 Cor. 6:14; 2 Cor. 4:14).
1. His resurrection serves as a precursor of our own resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20).
 2. At His return, we will be changed (1 Cor. 15:51) when our mortal bodies are exchanged for immortal ones (1 Cor. 15:53). We will possess bodies like the one Jesus presently has.
- III. Jesus’ Ascension
- A. Forty days after his resurrection (Acts 1:3), Jesus ascended into heaven before a group of his followers (Luke 24:50-51).
- B. In heaven, Jesus has been “exalted” by occupying the place at the Father’s right hand (Acts 2:33; 7:55; Heb. 1:3).
1. He has been given a name above every other name (Phil. 2:9).
 2. He serves as our high priest before the Father (Heb. 4:14-16).
 3. He receives constant praise by the host of heaven (Rev. 5:12).
 4. He is reigning until his enemies have been defeated (1 Cor. 15:25).
- C. As His resurrected body foreshadows our future bodies, His ascension reveals to us where we will ultimately go. He is preparing a place for us to spend with Him (John 14:1-4).

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