

Resurrection Transformation

1 Corinthians 15:1-26

4/04/10

This is the most important day on the calendar, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the day that Jesus defeated sin and death and won for us our victory over our own sin and death. This is a day of victory; it is a day of triumph!

As the old hymn goes, “Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o’er His foes!” He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!”

We call today “Sunday,” the first day of the week. This came from the Greeks who believed that life came from the sun. But in the Russian language the first day of the week is called “the day of the resurrection.” That is amazing for a country that denied the existence of God for seventy years!

The resurrection is about Jesus conquering death by being raised from the dead into newness of life. It’s because of Him that we, too, have resurrection from the dead. Most people have a keen interest in what will happen to them when they die. As people have since the beginning.

Job 14:14, “If a man dies will he live again? All the days of my hard struggle, I will wait for my renewal to come.”

Job 19:25-27, “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and in the end He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed; yet in my flesh I shall see God!”

Daniel 12:2, The multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some will rise to everlasting life and others will rise to everlasting contempt.

John 5:28, “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come forth. ...Some will rise to a resurrection of life and others to a resurrection of judgment.”

How does the resurrection personally apply to you? The scriptures tell us that it has application to your life and mine when we believe with a heart of faith in what God has done.

Romans 10:6-10 We believe with the heart

I. Blessed are Those Who Believe

- This theme runs through the scriptures; that God wants us to believe what he said...
- And that those who believe in God and walk in that faith are blessed because of it.

A. God made us to walk by faith

- When Jesus appeared to His disciples, Thomas was not there. When he heard what had happened, he refused to believe unless he placed his hands into Jesus’ wounds.
- So when Jesus appeared again, He invited Thomas to touch His hands and His side and then said to him...

John 20:29, Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

- But God gives us evidence of faith in which to believe.

Romans 1:19-22 God made it evident within them

- In 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, Paul lists those who were eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ. He wrote so that our faith would be strengthened.

B. God adds strength to faith

- Imagine the disciples in the days immediately after the crucifixion. Imagine the hopelessness and confusion they had.
- **But then, they began to believe and in believing, they began to be changed.**

Matthew 26:69-70, Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.”

- But after the resurrection, Peter was a man of boldness and strength. He knows that His Redeemer lives!

Acts 2:14, But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and

all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.”

- **Peter is filled with confidence in knowing the power of God.**
- There is a powerful change that comes with believing that impacts our living...

Illus – When I was a student at Multnomah Bible College I took a class where we discussed the resurrection – it changed my life because of the effect it had on my faith.

Matthew 28:11-15 What happened to Jesus’ body?

Illus – the modern theory of what happened to Jesus’ body is that after his death, his body was thrown out into the desert and eaten by dogs. The whole city was turned upside down with what happened to Jesus and can you imagine his body thrown out of the city and no one giving him a proper burial?

**Illus – I love the strength that we see in Paul’s faith...
“I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him until that day.”**

II. The Resurrection is About Changed Lives

- The resurrection of Jesus means that we can be born again. It means that we can now have life.

A. In believing we have life instead of death

- We begin by admitting that we are sinners and that the road we are on is the road of death.

Proverbs 16:25, There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Illus – Many people are trying to “find themselves,” but unless we find ourselves in God, we are still lost.

Admitting your lost is the first step in finding your way. Guys have a reputation of not asking directions, but admitting we’re lost is the first step in finding our way. Then we came up with the perfect solution; GPS gadgets. But God’s Word is higher still.

If I know who God is and who I am in God; all the major questions in life have been answered.

- **The simplest verse in the whole bible –**

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Illus – Many people who find their lives on a downward spiral will say, “I just need time to work this out.” We will never work it out by our own little self-help methods. What we need is to admit that we’re lost!

- The apostle John wrote his gospel so we would believe – and have life....

John 20:31, but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

- Jesus Himself gave us the promise of Life in His name...

John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

John 11:25-26, Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

B. In believing we have relationship with God

- We were separated from God – without hope and without God in this world.
- We were made for relationship. That is why family is so important; it’s a picture of what we have in Christ.

Illus – When I finished high school, I joined a fraternity at OSU because I wanted to have a family. Little did I know it was family of partyers. Great, now we can all go down the road of death together! Not a good idea.

- The reason He sent His Son to die on the cross was so that you and I could have a relationship to God.

C. God restores the broken

Illus – After Peter had denied Jesus three times, Jesus fixed His eyes on Peter, and he went out and wept bitterly.

- **Peter was broken and empty because he had betrayed the Lord and his soul was filled with anguish.**

Illus – Later, when Jesus appeared at the Sea of Galilee, Peter jumped in the water to be near the Lord. Jesus then walked with him and restored him. “Peter, do you love me?” Jesus asked, “Feed my sheep.”

- When we have relationship to God; that is when the power of God to transform and heal our lives is applied to our lives.

Psalm 147:2-3, The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Illus – If someone could give a testimony of the power of God to transform their lives in just two sentences what would they say?

I know that my life was transformed. I was raised by an abusive, alcoholic, angry father. The statistics tell us that being raised this way produces a messed up life. But what I found was that Christ made a way for me to have a relationship with God. That meant that instead of living as the son of an alcoholic, I could now be healed by a heavenly father who would love me like no earthly father ever could.

Illus – Here are some lives that have been changed, too.