

The Keystone of Our Faith

By

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Dear friend, the keystone of our Christian faith is the fact that Jesus died and that he physically resurrected from the dead. The Bible says that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, we are yet in our sins, no matter how religious and pious and devout we may be.

1 Co 15:13-19, "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up — if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!" NKJV

Scripture also declares that if we only have hope in Christ in this life, we are of all men most miserable and we are if there is no heaven to gain.

1 Cor. 15:19, "Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." NKJV

The physical bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is mentioned no less than 108 times in the New Testament and it is the crowning miracle of all miracles. It has been said that the resurrection is the Father's AMEN to the Son's exclamation. 'IT IS FINISHED.'

Think with me if you will what the resurrection of Christ means to you and me personally. His resurrection guarantees that God the Father accepted the sacrifice Christ made for your sin and mine. The fact that Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father in Heaven is proof positive that the work of our salvation was and is complete. There is no Salvation for anyone apart from the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10 makes that dogmatically clear.

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Ro 10:9-12, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." NKJV

His resurrection guarantees our own physical bodily resurrection in the future. For Scripture declares Christ has become the first fruits of them that slept or died in him.

1 Co 15:20-22, “ But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” NKJV

1 Co 15:47-49, “The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.” NKJV

John 5:28,29 declares “All that are in the graves shall come forth” in a physical bodily resurrection to spend eternity either in Heaven or in Hell, depending upon whether they have received the Lord Jesus Christ as their savior and payment for their sins, once for all forever.

Christ has put a light in the tomb of all who believe. Christ's resurrection is the bud of promise of which our resurrection is the flower of fulfillment. Christ's resurrection is a fact of experience as well as a fact of history. To those who believe God, a miracle needs no explanation; to those who don't believe, no explanation will suffice. Hardening of the arteries and hardening of the heart seem to go together. “Did Jesus really die,” a young boy asked his Father? The Father replied, “Yes he did.” Dejectedly the boy replied, “then he cannot love me now can he?” The resurrection of Christ took on new meaning to the father who said, “Ah, but three days later Jesus rose from the dead and he now cares for us more warmly and tenderly than ever before!” Dear Friend are you saved? Have you been rescued from hell unto life eternal? Is Jesus your own savior or are you trying to rescue yourself? Salvation comes in no other but through faith alone in the work of Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:15, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” NKJV