



QUEST 52

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THEOLOGY OF THE RESURRECTION

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- I. Centerpiece of Christianity (Acts 2:22–36; 4:2, 33; 23:6; 24:15; Rom 1:4; 6:5; 1 Cor 15; Eph 1:18; 2:4–7; Phil 3:10–11; 1 Thess 4:13–18; 1 Pet 3:18–22; Rev 20:5–6).
 - A. If this falls, all falls (1 Cor 15:13–14).
 - B. It is the central theme of nearly every sermon in the book of Acts (2:24–36 [2 vv. describes his life and death; 13 vv. describe his resurrection]; 3:15; 4:10–11; 5:30–32; 7:55–56; 10:40; 13:32–37; 17:31; 23:6–8; 24:15; 26:23). The only exceptions are Stephen's speech in Acts 7 (where Jesus is declared standing at God's right hand) and Paul's plea to the Lystrans not to sacrifice to him.
 - C. It is an essential creed (Rom 10:9) and part of the core gospel message (1 Cor 15:3–4). And it is certainly not too incredible to believe (Acts 26:8).
- II. What it meant to Jesus
 - A. His work was **complete**
 1. He fulfilled O.T. prophecy (Psa 16:8–11; Isa 53:8–10; cf. Hos 6:2) as well as his own predictions (Matt 16:21; 17:9, 23; 20:19). Hence, we can listen to all his self-acclamations and teachings.
 2. He defeated death (Rom 6:9; 1 Cor 15:20, 55–57).
 3. It establishes our justification (Rom 4:25).
 - B. He is **exalted** to God's right hand (Acts 2:32–33; Eph 1:20–21), Therefore:
 1. Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36), God's own son (Acts 17:31; Rom 1:4).
 2. He is worthy of the highest praise (Phil 2:9–11).
 3. NOTE: The resurrection and ascension are connected with the crucifixion. The three, together, comprise the glorification of Jesus (John 3:14; 12:16, 23; 13:31; Phil 2:6–11)
 4. He was established as the cornerstone/capstone of the church (Acts 4:10–12) and the exclusive source of eternal life.
- III. What it means to us
 - A. We have an **advocate** at God's right hand (Rom 8:31–39), hence, no one can bring a legal charge against us; Jesus grants repentance and forgiveness (Acts 5:30–31; 13:38). Thus, the judgment holds no dread for us (John 5:28–30; Acts 17:31).
 - B. We have **fellowship** with Jesus in suffering and death (John 6:54; Rom 6:4; Phil 3:10–11)
 1. Through baptism (Rom 6:5; Col 2:12; 1 Pet 3:21), self-denial (Phil 3:10–11), and persecution (Heb 11:35). This is a stumbling block to both Greek philosophy (Acts 17:18, 32) and Hebrew religion (Acts 23:6–8).
 2. We become dead to: Sin (Rom 6:11–14), Law (Acts 13:37–39; Rom 7:1–5; 8:1–4), and to the thoughts and things of this world (Col 3:1–2; Rom 6:5–7; 8:5).
 - C. We have **power** through the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; Acts 2:33; 5:30–32) who gives us courage and power to proclamation the Gospel (Acts 4:13–14).
 - D. We have **hope** (1 Cor 15:20; 1 Pet 1:3). If Jesus was raised then we can be too (John 5:21; 6:39–40, 44; 11:24–26; Acts 4:2; 1 Cor 6:14; 2 Cor 4:14), not merely from the dead but to the right hand of God (Eph 2:6).
 1. In two resurrections (John 5:24–29; Rev 20:4–6), both Spiritually (John 11:26) and Physically (1 Cor 15:42), of both the wicked and the righteous (Acts 24:15).
 2. Our new body will be, according to 1 Cor 15: Heavenly (40), Imperishable (42), Glorified and Powerful (43), Spiritual (44), Like Jesus (49), Suddenly changed (52) and Immortal (54).
 3. We will not experience marriage (Matt 22:28–30) or death (Luke 20:35–36).
 4. Reward (Luke 14:14); co-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17); and fellow rulers with him (Rev 20:6).