

When Peter declares: *But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, ...*
Acts 2:24a

Do you know what the agony was?

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, ... Isaiah 53:5

The punishment for all human sin fell to Jesus on the cross.

It was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, Isaiah 53:10

but it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2:24b

Because death had never swallowed a sinless person, nor One who possessed perfect sacrificial love.

Jesus work on the cross won him victory.

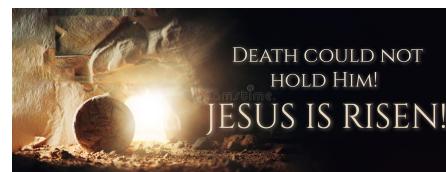
I am the One who lives; I was dead, but look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys to death and to the place of the dead.
Revelation 1:18

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.
John 5:24

Today is the day my friends.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2:38

Sierra Community Church April 16th-17th, 2022- Dan Wilvers



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Acts 2-The First Christian Sermon

"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

...³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

...³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

...⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The resurrection forms the character and the content of the Christian message.

I. The message is founded upon eyewitness truth.

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Acts 2:32

- Christianity is a witness, not a philosophy

A **philosopher** is someone who, after a lot of effort, comes to an idea.

A **witness** is someone to whom an idea has come.

Here's why this is so important: Because a witness attests to a fact, whereas philosophy will debate its merit. If Jesus resurrection is a fact then there are no debates about who Jesus is and what he taught.

The character of the Christian message is truth, established by eyewitnesses, who's later testimony of the resurrection brought them serious persecution and ultimately death. They gained nothing in this world by holding to their truth.

II. The message's content is beyond human imagining.

The resurrection proves the two things that make Christianity different than all the other religions.

1. Jesus doesn't point the way to God, He claims to be God.

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Matthew 1:23

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. Colossians 1:15

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, Colossians 1:19

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us.

John 1:1,14

How does the resurrection bear upon that?

(Jesus) was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead.

Romans 1:4

Jesus Christ being raised from the dead is the demonstration of God's power.

I ...pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 1:19,20

What is the greatest power in the world?

Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Hebrews 2:14

2. Belief in Christ, not your good deeds is how you are accepted by God.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8,9

You're saved because Jesus Christ came for you.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in (Jesus) we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21