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The significance of the Resurrection of Christ Pt 1 To verify who He was, and for our justification.

This is our first study on the significance of the resurrection. Given that our previous topic was closely related- "The power of God is the resurrection - we live in the power of His resurrection", let us first remember our points previously covered - (1) we live by the power of God- the resurrected Christ, (2) Christians are kept unto salvation by the power of God, through faith, and (3) we are to abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. In this study we establish three points - (1) Jesus is declared the Son of God by His resurrection, (2) We are justified by His resurrection, and (3) baptism saves us by the resurrection.

Our three points established from the scriptures -

1. Jesus is declared the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead

"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom.1: 4).

All that the Lord Jesus taught is validated, affirmed to be true - by His resurrection from the dead.

Jesus said - I am the resurrection and the life - believe on me and ye shall live
"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (Jn.11: 25).

He taught His disciples that He would be crucified and rise from the dead -
"And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead" (Matt.17: 9).
See also Mk.8: 3. 9: 9, 31 & Lk.24: 7.

The gospel that we preach includes the resurrection ("And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" - 1 Cor.15: 4)- which was prophesied in the Old Testament (OT) scriptures - "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Ps.16: 10). Hence His resurrection was a fulfilment of OT prophecies, and verified in Acts 2:27 & 31 - "Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption....He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption"

2. Christ was raised for our justification.

"But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom.4: 24 & 25).

And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life" (Rom 5:16 & 18).

Note - in each verse where "justification" is used so is the word "offence" or the plural "offences". There is victory over death, over the grave, our offences, our sin, through Jesus Christ - by His resurrection from the dead -
"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is

swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Cor 15:54-57). Hence, we are justified by His resurrection.

3. Noah was saved by water as baptism saves us by the resurrection.

"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water" (1 Pet.3: 20).

"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet.3: 21).

How are we to understand these verses?

I) how was Noah and his family saved by water (1 Pet.3: 20)?

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Heb.11: 7).

Therefore, those who went into the ark were saved by the flood waters by the preaching "bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly" (2 Pet.2: 5).

II) How does baptism save us by the resurrection (1 Pet.3; 21)?

a) we know that **water** baptism cannot, and does not save us – 1 Cor.1: 17, and

b) we know that – "by grace are ye saved through faith" – Eph.2: 8.

c) there is "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph.4: 5).

d) that "one baptism" is spiritual – "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (1 Cor.12: 13), and it is that spiritual baptism into the body of Christ that saves us today, **not water baptism**.

Therefore, when we believe in our heart we receive, and are sealed by, the Holy Spirit, by which we are baptised into one body". We put off the old and put on the new. I.e. "our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Rom.6: 6). And so "we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom.6: 4). If there was no resurrection we would not be baptised into the body of Christ.

Illustration

The Roman Catholics pervert our verses from 1 Peter chapter 3 to read– "...were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you..."

Her commentary notes read –"The clearest statement in the NT that Baptism brings us salvation...Peter is referring to the sacrament of Baptism.."

Note:– the word "resurrection" is not mentioned once in the Roman Catholic commentary but the words baptism and sacrament are both mentioned three times.

Question to think about.

From this study, what is the significance of the resurrection?

Answer from the scriptures

The significance of the resurrection – it declares He was, who He said He was, the Son of God, and the resurrection justifies those who believe in the gospel of Christ.

Let us joy in the resurrection for those who believe the gospel are–

justified by His faith (Gal.2: 16), His grace (Tit.3: 7), His blood (Rom.5: 9), and we are baptised into the body of Christ by His resurrection. Amen!