

Resurrection 2015

The Cross and Resurrection

Pastor Steve Berger April 5, 2015

The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- the single greatest weekend of events in human history
- the Bible says much about the cross and resurrection

Billy Graham said, “God proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung, bled and died, it was God saying to the world, ‘I love you.’”¹

Not everyone feels so affectionate toward the cross of Jesus

The Message of the Cross

- 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-24
 - foolishness to the “wise” who are perishing
 - stumbling block to the religious who are perishing
 - power of God to those being saved

Not only are some not affectionate toward the cross of Jesus the cross is an offense to them. Galatians 5:11

The Power of the Cross — seen in what it does for us

The Bible says the cross is the power and wisdom of God to those who are being saved.

- 1 Corinthians 1:19-23
 - cross **reconciles** us to God
 - cross gives us **peace** with God
 - cross makes us **holy** before God
 - cross makes us **blameless** before God
 - cross makes us **above reproach** before God
- Colossians 2:13-14
 - cross **forgives all your trespasses**
 - cross **wipes out requirements that were against us**

Before you say yes to the cross

- alienated enemy of God
- doing wicked works
- spiritually dead
- eternally perishing

After you say yes to what the cross offers you

- reconciled friend of God, at peace, holy, blameless, above reproach, forgiven of all sins, not having to perform to be right with God, made spiritually alive in Jesus

Joel Comiskey, *Live: Experience Christ's Life*, (Moreno Valley, CA: CSS Publishing, 2008), 11

**When you consider all that the cross of Jesus did
for alienated, wicked, dead, perishing enemies of God —
no wonder the cross is called the power and wisdom of God —
no wonder the message of the cross is called Good News!**

Why did Jesus endure the cross with all its unspeakable pain and suffering?

The joy that was set before Him

- Hebrews 12:2
 - joy of sinful humanity becoming saved by the sacrifice of the cross
 - Jesus knew what the cross would accomplish

**Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was before Him,
that joy, sinful humanity becoming saved by the sacrifice of the cross!
Jesus saw what the cross would accomplish
and sacrificially paid the price for our salvation, "God proved His love on the cross."**

*The cross is the power of God to those being saved, it is foolishness and a stumbling block to the perishing. **Where do you fit in, power or perishing?***

How sure can we be that the resurrection happened?

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, the message of the cross has no power or benefit to us — but because He did, the cross is powerful and beneficial!

Professor Thomas Arnold, author of the famous History of Rome, and appointed to the chair of modern history at Oxford, was well acquainted with the value of evidence in determining historical facts. This great scholar said, "I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead."²

Brooke Foss Westcott, an English scholar, said, "Taking all the evidence together, it is not too much to say that there is no historic incident better or more variously supported than the resurrection of Christ."³

And Sir Lionel Luckhoo, whose 245 consecutive murder trial victories earned him a place in The Guinness Book of World Records as the world's most successful lawyer, concluded that "the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt."⁴

**The honest seeker,
while examining the evidence for the resurrection,
will find absolutely no room for doubt!**

Important biblical facts about the resurrection of Jesus

- Jesus repeatedly foretold His own death and resurrection, knew it was coming
 - Matthew 16:21
- Jesus repeatedly seen in public after the resurrection
 - 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

Willis C. Newman, *You Can Believe the Bible*, (Tacoma, WA:Newman International, 2008),49

Josh McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict 1*, (San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, 1979)

The Guinness Book of World Records, 1991 Edition (New York, NY: Facts on File, 1991), 547

- Jesus' resurrection was preached repeatedly by the disciples
 - Acts 2:32
 - Acts 3:15
 - Acts 5:30-32
- Jesus' resurrection is the very cornerstone of the Christian faith
 - 1 Corinthians 15:14-15
- Jesus' resurrection tells us three more very important things
 - Acts 17:30-31
 - God is going to judge the world, you, based on what you do with Jesus
 - Jesus is God's ordained, chosen Man
 - One Way, One Name, One Mediator
 - God commands all men everywhere to repent, turn to Jesus
 - so the benefits of the cross can be poured out on your life

What are you going to do with the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

*This is too important to be undecided, to be undecided is to be decided against.
You are either for or against.*

- foolishness that offends your wisdom — reject and perish
- stumbling block that offends your religiosity — reject and perish
- repent, believe, receive, confess
- two thieves dying on either side of Jesus — one receives, one rejects — which are you?

It takes humility and courage to follow Jesus

- Humility
 - I can't do it on my own, I need a Savior, I need to be forgiven
- Courage
 - to confess Him publicly before men

**If you want to talk to someone about your relationship with Jesus Christ,
call Pastor Myron Goodwin at 615-591-5091, or email ihavedecided@gracechapel.net**

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the weekend of the cross and resurrection the greatest weekend in human history?
2. Why is the cross foolishness to the "wise" who are perishing? Why is the cross an offense to others?
3. What can you say to someone who says, "I'm spiritual, good enough on my own. God and I have an agreement"?
4. Describe the peace that the cross has brought in your life. What was your life like before Christ?
5. Discuss Pastor Steve's statement, "There isn't a devil in hell that can bring an accusation against us that will cause God to treat us any differently or love us any less. When the devil reminds you of your sin, you remind him of Jesus' cross."
6. How can you be sure that the resurrection really happened?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-15. Why is the resurrection important to the Christian faith?
8. What will happen on the day of judgment talked about in Acts 17:30-31? How does this make you feel?
9. What have you done, or are you going to do with the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
Not to decide is to decide.

Click on "House of Prayer" on www.gracechapel.net to fill out a prayer request. We will pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer times. Come Tuesday, April 7, at 6:30 p.m.!