

Matthew 28:1-10 Resurrection

22nd April 2019 am Hill and Arcadia Easter Sunday

The agony that Jesus suffered as one unjustly condemned, publicly shamed and mercilessly crucified must have been **indescribably excruciating**.

Words are **inadequate** to describe the brutal horror of all that He endured physically and mentally.

Not forgetting that this ruthless suffering inflicted on Him came in the context of him being **contaminated with the sins** of the world; along with Him receiving the full of **wrath of God** as punishment for these sins.

All of this terrible suffering inflicted on Him ending in **his death**.

Matthew 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Jesus **died and was buried**

Matthew 27:59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

Understandably **gloom and despondency** descended on his followers. All seemed to have come to nothing.

Read Matthew 28:1-10

The main subject of these verses is **the miraculous resurrection** of our Lord Jesus from the dead.

It is one of those truths which is at the **very foundation** of Christianity; the resurrection is the hinge on which the door of Christianity swings. We therefore see that each of the gospel writers devote special attention to this critical event.

The **crucial significance** of the resurrection is put plainly by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

The truth of Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead is **clearly and meticulously** attested to in the New Testament; because:

- It is the **stamp of approval** of the great work of redemption, which Jesus came to do.

- It is the **crowning proof** that he paid the debt, which he undertook to pay on our behalf. He won the battle to deliver us sinful people from hell and therefore our Father in heaven accepts him as our “Guarantee (surety) and Substitute”

Had Jesus never come forth from the grave you and I could never be sure that **our ransom** had been fully paid.

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Had He never risen we could never feel confident or have any kind of assurance, that He has **overcome death**, and the devil who had the power over death.

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

He has risen and so with Peter we can have an outburst of praise.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,;4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

Consider with me today the resurrection of Jesus and **how it affects** the world.

1. Safety and hope for the believer

We have some indication looking at this passage of **supernatural** manifestation and glorious intervention...

Matthew 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

The earthquake and the appearance of the angel are an indication of **God's good pleasure** and **God's will** being accomplished as the Son of God rises as Conqueror.

His **work was done**. The enemy defeated and sin dealt with. The grave could not hold him beyond the appointed time of completing His mission.

The Lord Jesus rose from the dead – **not like Lazarus** or any other who would die again – but to live forever more; having achieved salvation for people from every nation, tribe and language.

Consequently the message to the women (friends of Jesus) from **the angel**...

Matthew 28:5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

Also the message to the women from **Jesus** has the same emphasis...

Matthew 28:10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

They are **words of comfort and safety**; spoken to the women because they were looking for their Lord and Master, Jesus. He was the object of their pursuit.

By implication confirming that every true believer has **no cause for alarm** or fear on the last day, when Jesus appears. There is no need to fear the glorious presence and action of the Lord; regardless of what happens in or to the world.

In the end **the Lord shall appear** in the clouds of heaven and the earth will be burned up; the graves will give up the dead in them and the sea shall give up the dead that are in it.

Judgment will begin and the books will be opened. The sheep will be separated from the goats BUT IN ALL THIS THERE IS NOTHING THAT NEED MAKE THE BELIEVER AFRAID.

Clothed in the righteousness of Christ, they shall be found without spot and blameless. Safe in the ark – not hurt even in the slightest when the flood of God's wrath falls on the earth.

The **implications** of hope flow from this passage.

a) Hope for your deceased loved ones

There is on display in this picture **a promise of resurrection** of his believing people.

Here we see a glorious angel as a witness to His rising, and then **on that day** when Jesus returns *with a cry of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:16) ... then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...*

The resurrection of Jesus **secures** and **guarantees** the bodily resurrection of every believer...

1 Corinthians 15:20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To the farmer the firstfruits showed that a crop was out there and what that crop was like.

JC Ryle: *"He rose with a renewed body, and yet a body, real, true and material, and so also shall His people have a glorious body, and be like their Head".*

Think of the **many funerals and gravesides** that you have shared in hearing those words, *"we commit this body to the grave in sure and certain hope of the resurrection".*

Richard Baxter: “If a skillful workman can turn a little earth and ashes into such curious transparent glasses as we daily see, and if a little seed that bears no show of such a thing can produce the more beautiful flowers of the earth; and if a little acorn can bring forth the greatest oak; why should we once doubt whether the seed of everlasting life and glory, which is now the blessed souls with Christ, can by Him communicate a perfection to the flesh that is dissolved into its elements?”

Since Jesus rose from the dead, we too **can be sure** of seeing our believing loved ones.

Hope for those who have gone before us and hope in the present for us who remain.

b) Hope for yourself

Trial, sorrow and persecution are often **the portion of God’s people** in this life. Sickness, weakness and pain are not foreign to many of you even here today but perfection will come.

There will be **no more** pain, handicap or suffering or sin when that appointed time comes.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

The **important issue** is not how you die and what kind of funeral you have. The great question to ask is, “How will you rise again?”

2. Danger and terror for the unbeliever

The same supernatural manifestation and glorious intervention **results** in a different outcome for those who do not believe.

Matthew 28:3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

These were **hardened Roman soldiers** used to the brutality and hardness of the day. They were the champions of the world they dominated yet their courage melts at once at the appearance of one angel of God.

See this too as **a picture** of things to come.

What will the wicked do at the last day when the trumpet shall sound and Christ will come in His majestic glory to judge the world?

What will they do when they see the **dead bodies rising from the graves** and all the angels of God assembled around the great white throne?

Fear and terror will take hold of them as they will then **no longer be able to avoid** the presence of God. They will have no choice but to meet Him face to face.

There is a warning here to those who **remain in unbelief**. Remember that there is a resurrection and judgement and that there is such a thing as "*the wrath of the Lamb*".

Revelation 6:16 calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

Conclusion

Jesus tells **the 2 Mary's** to pass this good news on to his disciples.

Matthew 28:10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

There is something **deeply touching** in those words – my brothers. In spite of their weakness, frailty, their running away and yet still he calls them his brothers.

He comforts them, **as Joseph comforted** his brothers who sold him to a bunch of foreign slave traders. Remember the words of Joseph to them – *I am your brother Joseph*.

These **disciples had failed** over and over again. Jesus on the other hand is the glorious one, the conqueror over death and hell and the grave, yet the grace of Jesus displayed in the intimacy of the word – brother.

Is that not **like us, who so regularly fail**, who so regularly slip – hear the kindness and grace in the voice of Jesus. They will remember the words – my body broken for you, my blood poured out for you – substitution and forgiveness!

Where do you stand in relationship to the risen Christ? **Friend or enemy!**

Are you **bursting** at the seams to praise him as the conqueror of sin and hell and the devil and the grave?

This Jesus who has risen **extends an invitation** to you to enter into the safety of a right standing with him.

There is no **safety or confidence or assurance** unless you must go to him and receive him as you Saviour and Lord.