

April 16, 2017

“Crosswalk”

A Six-Week Journey with the Cross, Part 6

“After the Cross – 3 Days Later”

“Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said...he was seen by more than 500...”

But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:3b-4, 6a, 57

A. The greatest day in all history, Resurrection Sunday...

Here are the facts:

1. Christ died for our sins.

“Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.” Vs 3b

2. Christ was buried.

“He was buried...” Vs 4a

3. Christ was raised from the dead.

“And he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.” Vs 4b

4. Christ was seen... by Peter, by the Twelve, by 500, by James, by all the apostles, and by Paul!

“He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.” Vs 5-8

B. The greatest day, Resurrection Sunday, holds the greatest value to our faith...

Here are the values to our life:

1. If the resurrection didn't happen, preaching is useless.

“And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless...”

Vs 14a

2. If the resurrection didn't happen, faith is useless.

“...and your faith is useless.” Vs 14b

3. If the resurrection didn't happen, there is no forgiveness of sins.

“...and you are still guilty of your sins.” Vs 17b

4. If the resurrection didn't happen, there is no victory over death and no victory beyond the grave... and if so...we are to be pitied!

“In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.” Vs 18-19

C. If there was no Resurrection Sunday...

How would it have changed our world?

1. The Christian faith has changed the value on human life; affected human rights, the value of women, the value of children, the abolition of slavery, the end of gladiators, and cannibalism.
2. The Christian faith has changed compassion and mercy. Christian charities stand out: i.e. Mother Teresa, the Salvation Army, religious hospitals, soup kitchens, and thrift shops. Christians are the most generous group in our culture.

3. The Christian faith has changed education. The Protestant Reformation brought about the education of the masses. For 200 years in America, children's reading texts contained Scripture. All but one of the first 123 colleges in colonial America were Christian institutions.
4. The Christian faith has directly impacted America's Constitution by its biblical doctrines.
5. The Christian faith has affected the thinking of scientists like Keppler, Boyle, Pascal, Pasteur, Newton, and many others.
6. The Christian faith has even impacted our free enterprise and work ethic with the “Protestant work ethic.”
7. The Christian faith has made its mark on art, music and literature. It influenced writers like Dante, Chaucer, Dostoevsky, Shakespeare, Dickens, Milton, and more. It influenced the music world of Handel, Vivaldi, and Bach. It influenced art with its beautiful cathedrals, sculptures, and paintings.*

*D. James Kennedy, Jerry Newcombe, Dinesh D'Souza, and Glenn Sunshine

...and all because of Resurrection Sunday!

D. What are the truths about the resurrection?*

*Lee Stroebel

1. Execution: The crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus was clearly dead and was buried!
2. Empty tomb: No bones were ever found!

3. Eyewitnesses: Over 515 eyewitnesses, including skeptics.
4. Early accounts: Creed of the early church (I Corinthians 15 as early as 24-36 months after Jesus' death), historical data close to the happenings.
5. Emergence of the church: Explosive growth!

E. What will you do with the truth of the resurrection?

1. I choose to believe that the greatest power in the universe could love me.

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

2. I choose to believe that the resurrection power could live in me.

"Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this?'"

John 11:25-26

3. I choose to celebrate this day by choosing Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior.

"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

4. I choose to follow Him by giving Him my life and my all!

"I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13