

The Importance of the Resurrection

Acts 24:1-21

I. Intro

- A. There are several things that sets Christianity apart from every other religious system.
 - 1. The Perfect sacrifice of Jesus
 - a) Jesus lived a perfect life without sin
 - b) He died as a sacrifice for our sins
 - 2. Grace
 - a) Salvation is not earned, but gifted to us.
 - b) We received this GRACE through FAITH
 - 3. Resurrection
 - a) Our perfect sacrifice died and was buried.
 - b) But He didn't stay dead!
 - c) The Resurrection changed everything
- B. This message of sacrificial death was not foreign to the Jewish people
- C. The message of GRACE was a new/renewed concept: new, because many had not been taught grace, but renewed because grace is all over the Old Testament, but not understood
- D. It is a natural human trait to attempt to earn something by proving worth, but that is not the gospel!

II. Text

- A. Acts 24:1-9: the accusations
- B. Acts 24:10-15
 - 1. Verse 14: believing EVERYTHING laid down by the Law and written in the prophets
 - 2. Verse 15: HOPE in God, believing in the resurrection
- C. Acts 24:16-20: Paul is making a statement of his continued adherence to the law
- D. Acts 24:21: Paul cried out in a loud voice, shouted...
 - 1. This happened in Acts 23:6-11
 - 2. Did Paul provoke? Did he notice the division in the crowd, and simply bring that to the front?
 - 3. Or was he getting to the heart of the issue?
 - a) I believe he was trying to bring up the most significant moment to his faith, and to the Jewish leadership's problem with his faith.
 - b) He was saying: THIS IS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION!

III. Points

- A. The Ignorance of the Resurrection
 - 1. The Resurrection is a stumbling block to those who do not believe.
 - 2. Why do they not believe?
 - a) People don't normally rise from the dead
 - b) Its something that goes against nature
 - c) So, many who have not been exposed to the story of the resurrection, or the facts of the resurrection, choose to not believe because it is so different from normal.
 - 3. The Resurrection of Jesus is something that requires FAITH to believe, so those lacking faith, will remain ignorant to the power of the resurrection.
 - 4. It will sound like nonsense to those without knowledge.
 - 5. But, it is the Resurrection that changed everything!
- B. The Importance of the Resurrection
 - 1. Things we can't do without:
 - a) Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. Heb. 9:22
 - b) Without the Resurrection we have no hope. 1 Cor. 15
 - 2. We cannot do without Faith in the blood that was shed in sacrifice, and the person who was resurrected in power!

3. The Resurrection of Jesus is the central element in Christianity.
 - a) The death rate is still 100%, we all face death one day
 - b) The Resurrection of our savior gave us victory over the grave, and then empowered us to walk with God
 4. Has the Resurrection been demonstrated in your actions?
 - a) John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.c 7Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
 - b) Ephesians 4:1-8 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. 8Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”
 - c) If you are born in the Spirit, you are gifted by the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit!
 5. The Resurrection is the spiritual truth that allowed for the empowerment of believers to be in right fellowship and relationship with God.
 6. The better question: Do you notice that the resurrection of Jesus impacts every aspect of your life?
- C. The Impact of the Resurrection
1. The impact of forgiveness:
 - a) We have been brought into relationship BY HIS BLOOD
 - b) We are grateful for FORGIVENESS
 - c) We are changed by the recognition of this GRACE
 2. Forgiveness and empowerment are separate aspects of our salvation:
 - a) Through the resurrection, we are empowered for the ministry
 - b) Phil 3:7-11 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
 - c) Given Righteous, Empowered by the Resurrection!

IV. Close

- A. The Resurrection of Christ
- B. 1 Corinthians 15

Now I would remind you, brothers, 1 of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles,

unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Resurrection of the Dead

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

29 Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? 30 Why are we in danger every hour? 31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” 33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” 4 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

The Resurrection Body

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 39 For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. 40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Mystery and Victory

50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the

trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.