



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: newlifeplondon@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.newlifebpc.org.uk

"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

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What does the Resurrection mean to you?

By Rev Jack Sin, pastor of Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore

Introduction

The only faith that presents its founder as one who came back to life from the dead is Christianity and none else. It is a historic and foundational tenet of the Christian religion that has stood the tests of time and the assaults of critics and skeptics alike. What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave mean to you? Is it just a nice historic story to repeat? Is it merely a convenient theme for some talk or friendly conversation? Let us put it on a personal level: when was the last time that you have been to the cemetery? It is about time we go there again and consider the sobering end of life. What will you do in response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ? We can answer that question by turning to the Bible and seeing the response that others made to the resurrection of Jesus.

Consider a portion of Matthew's account of the authenticated resurrection of Jesus:

Matt. 28:1-6 says, 'In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.'

Personal Saving Faith in God

First of all we see that we must respond to the resurrection of Jesus with believing faith. His resurrection proves that He was not a liar (no one will die for a lie) or a lunatic (He is not a madman who did not know what he is saying for his messages are coherent and sound but He is truly God). His resurrection proves that He was who he claimed to be, the Son of God. The resurrection was hard for even the disciples to believe at first for none have ever seen this in their entire lives. When the women reported what they saw to the apostles, they did not believe the women at first. They thought it was nothing more than idle talk from foolish women. Eventually eleven of the twelve believed minus Judas. They all told doubting Thomas that they had seen Jesus alive. He would not believe, however, until Jesus appeared to him. When Jesus did appear to Thomas,...

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he said to him, *'Do not be faithless, but believing'* (Jn. 20:27). Then he believed too. The resurrection event was staggering, amazing, unheard of that it was difficult for them to believe it. But they believed and so faith was their response as it must be ours today. When Thomas finally believed after giving up on his empirical experiment of touching Jesus nailed pierced hands, Jesus said to him: *'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'* (Jn. 20:29). Jesus pronounced a blessing on us if we would believe in Him, even though we have not seen Him literally as they did. Our question to you in this lesson is, *'Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God and He was raised from the dead? Do you believe and receive Christ the Son of God as your personal Saviour and Lord?'* It is not that difficult, we just need to humble ourselves to acknowledge the risen Saviour and by faith embrace this truth and receive Him today as our Saviour and Lord if not Do It Now (DIN) without delay.

Reverential and Holy Worship

A second response we ought to have when we are confronted with the resurrection of Jesus Christ is an attitude of reverential worship. When the women left the empty tomb of Jesus *they 'departed quickly from the tomb with fear'* (Matt. 28:8). Fear and worship are not the same thing, but fear in the sense of awe or reverence is a part of worship. These women left the tomb to tell the other disciples about Jesus. As they were going, Jesus appeared to them and greeted them. The Bible then says, *'And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him'* (Mt. 28:9). Likewise when Thomas saw the resurrected Christ, he said, *'My Lord and my God!'* (Jn. 20:28). This was a sentence of awe and worship and adoration. He realized that the resurrection of Jesus meant that He truly was God's only Son, the Lord of Lords. Our question based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ is, Whom or what do you worship today? It is self, world, money or health? Do you worship the only loving and true God sincerely and in spirit and in truth from your heart as a Christian and on the Sabbath in a bible believing church?

Gospel Joy and Great Fear

Another reaction of the women who left the empty tomb of Jesus was *'with fear and great joy'* (Matt. 28:8). They were so excited after the angel announced to them the risen saviour. They were running to tell the news to the other disciples. Does it put joy in your heart to know that there is a hope for eternal life and a resurrection from the grave to that eternal life? Yes there is now no fear of death and the awe and holy fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom (Prov 9:10). Do we revere, respect and love God with all our heart? Is there the fine balance of joy and awe that overwhelm our hearts as we serve and worship the living and true God? Let us arise this Easter with these sacred emotions as we live for him fervently and confidently in the days ahead. Do not keep His good news to yourself and do not also forfeit yourself of this holy joy, peace and hope in our risen and victorious Lord. Tell it to others, shout it out and pass it around to your neighbours, friends and colleagues that others may seek Him today and be saved from condemnation forever more. Lk 24:47-48, *'And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things'*. Lk 24:45 says, *'Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures'*.

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The Charge to share the message of the Risen Saviour

Finally the reaction of the women at the tomb was a fervent desire to share the good news of the resurrection of Jesus with others. The angel at the empty tomb told them to do this: *'Go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead'* (Matt. 28:7). Moments later when Jesus Himself met them and greeted them, He likewise said, *'Go and tell my brethren'* (Matt. 28:10). After Jesus had made at least 10 post-resurrection appearances (see Willmington Guide), before His final departure He gave the great commission to the disciples. In essence it told them to share the good news of His resurrection with the world: *'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'* (Matt. 28:19).

'Go tell'. That is the first command given to those who saw the resurrected Christ. We should not hesitate but to go and tell the whole world because it is such a joyous truth. We should go and tell others because it is the evangel or good news. We should go tell because it brings everlasting hope of salvation from the condemnation and the miseries of sin. We should go and proclaim this blessed news because it lets us know that death is not the end of it all. There is eternal life on the other side and yes there is a glorious expectation and we yearn to see the living, true God and live forever. Tit 2:13 says, *'Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ'*. Be expectant of His second coming and dare to trust God at His word and live eternity with values in view.

Conclusion

We ministered at the funeral of one of our member's loved one recently but praise God he was saved and there is peace, quiet comfort and joy amidst grief and sorrow before the Lord took him home. Death is not that frightful after all for Christ is the Victor over it. Some are still wondering if death is the end of it all or if there is more beyond death. Paul answered in 1 Cor 15:55-57 says, *'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'*.

We can be certain of life and death due to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. People are dying daily but no one has come back to tell us what it would be like on the other side except Christ. Is there another side to eternity and how do we get there? The authenticated fact of our Lord's resurrection Christ tells us there is more to life than just physical death here. Do you believe this? John 11:25 says, *'Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live'*. If you do then do you share this good news with others as well? Be a vibrant witness for Christ today and save souls as the Lord wills.

We have looked at how we ought to respond to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we realize that Jesus was raised from the dead and that He is the living and true God, our response should be (1) genuine belief of Christ as God, (2) holy and reverential worship every day and on the Sabbath, (3) gospel joy and fear in the Lord and (4) a burning desire to share this good news with others around us. Will you do it today? Our time is running out soon. Do it now (DIN) before it is too late!

*(for deeper studies on this subject, read Josh and Sean McDowell, **Evidence for the Resurrection**, Imprint Edition, 2009)*

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am** and **4.00 pm**.

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	<i>Today: 12/04/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 19/04/2009</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Kent & Bee Bee Tay to our worship services last Lord's Day. NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling of Resident Minister: Continue to pray for the Lord's calling for Rev Timothy Ki to serve as our resident minister. Pray for his visa application. • Visiting Eld Jack Ford at Woking: This has been planned for the afternoon of 18 Apr (this Saturday). For those who are interested to come, please inform Rev Lim. • No Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: There is no Prayer Meeting & Bible Study this Saturday, 18 Apr. • DHW Bible Study: This will commence next Lord's Day after the morning worship service. Please pick up your study notes from at the book table in the Fellowship Hall. • Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM): Please note that an ACM will be held on 26 April after the morning worship service. All members are required to attend. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas (knee pain), Maria (ankle and joint pain), Constance (left heel pain), Margaret (cough) • Pray for those applying for visa: Josh & Hannah • Pray for on travel: Joshua & Hannah (New Zealand), Grace & Chun Long (S'pore), Joy (Brunei), George & Susan (M'sia).
<i>Chairman:</i>	Joey Seow	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon	
<i>Message:</i>	Truths Relating to the Resurrection	Making Your Calling and Election Sure	
<i>Text:</i>	1 Corinthians 15:1-20	2 Peter 1:1-21	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Anthony	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Joey Seow	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Lim Chee Boon	Rev Lim Chee Boon	
<i>Message:</i>	The Lord is Good	O Fear the Lord, Ye His Saints	
<i>Text:</i>	Psalms 34:1-8	Psalms 34:9-22	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Hubert	Sophia	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 12/04/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 19/04/2009</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel / Sharon	Jonathan / Yetta	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	No Sunday School	No Sunday School	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Lee Wei	Joshua	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 17 Apr	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Bible Study – Survey of the Old Testament	
Sat 18 Apr		Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Visitation of Eld Jack Ford @ Woking	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £642.00		Lunch: £28.21	
Christian Work			
<i>Adapted from "In Green Pastures" by J.R. Miller, D.D.</i>			
Bring every grace and gift of your life into Christ's service. Not only use well the gifts you have now at work, but develop what you have into greater skill and power of service. Strive ever to excel. Grow by working. Don't stand with idle hands a moment, because for each moment you must give account. Do not allow your spiritual powers to rest in dusty niches merely for adornment. Take them all down and put life into them, that they may be useful. Do not play at Christian work. The King's business requireth haste.			