

Easter 2005

"The Significance of the Resurrection"

What Makes Something "SIGNIFICANT"? ...

... Today, people don't think "PHILOSOPHICALLY" about their lives they think PRAGMATICALLY— We are Very Busy Living Life, but not so busy Studying Life so that we might be wise in HOW we Live It.

" Most of us feel immortal in our teens and twenties, then move through life so fast in our thirties and forties that we lose sight of the journey and think only of our careers. Even in our fifties we barely hear the roar of the rapids several bends down river. ... Have you awakened to the journey of life? Or are you among those drifting down the years? Are you among those so caught up on the project of themselves that they choose not to hear the flow of time?... Are you living an examined life? Or are you living in the hand-me-down ideas of others? " Os Guinness ("The Long Journey Home", p.6, 9, 20, 32)

" the unexamined life is not worth living" Socrates (The Long Journey, p. 12)

IF THE RESURRECTION DID NOT HAPPEN— THERE IS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE... 1 Co 15

1Co 15:12-20

v. 14 ... Our Preaching is in Vain and Our Faith is in Vain

- If the Resurrection did not happen— the message & purpose of our lives are MEANINGLESS and we have pitifully wasted our lives and are "most to be pitied" (v. 19)

By Contrast: If the Resurrection Did Occur, Then Any Other Faith is in Vain— & You are Most to be Pitied!

1Co 15:1-8 ... The GOSPEL "by which you are saved" (v. 1-2)

Rom 1:1-4 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

— The Resurrection is a DECLARATION about the Gospel and the Gospel is the PHILOSOPHY that Guides the Life of a Christian!!

v. 15 ... We Are Misrepresenting God

- We are Lying to Others!

By Contrast: If the Resurrection Did Occur... Then Christianity is the Truth and Other Religions that Don't Depend on the Resurrection of the Christ are Lying— THEY are Misrepresenting God.

v. 16 ... We Are Still in Our Sins

Rom 4:25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.

— The GOSPEL is the Good News that we are Forgiven of our Sins— Because of the Cross.... and the Resurrection is the Proclamation that the Offering of the Cross Was Accepted by the Father!!

By Contrast: If the Resurrection Did Occur, Then God Has Revealed THE ONLY REMEDY for Man to Find Forgiveness and if you Reject Believing in the Resurrected Christ— You Are Still in Your Sins

v. 18 ... Those Who Have Died Trusting Christ Have Perished

BY CONTRAST: If the Resurrection Did Occur, Those Who Have Died w/o Trusting Christ Have Perished

IF THE RESURRECTION DID HAPPEN, IT HAS BOTH PRESENT & FUTURE SIGNIFICANCE TO OUR HOPE & OUR JOY

Jn 16:19-22

- The Reality of Sorrow — “You will weep and lament... you will be sorrowful” (v. 20)

– In this world you will have tribulation

– Tears are Real in the Bible

– DEATH Still Occurs And it is a LOOMING Reality in Our Existence! Death Reminds Us that the BEST of Things & People & Seasons in our Lives are TEMPORARY and Subject to Decay and Destruction.

Heb 2:14-16 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

.... Our hope is not to seek to have a life that AVOIDS these things, but rather to encounter something in God that TRANSCENDS These Things!

... That’s What Resurrection is — It Is God TRUMPING Death “Death is swallowed up

RESURRECTION IS A SOVEREIGN REVERSAL it is the ultimate expression of Redemption

- Can God Bring Sovereign Reversals into Our Lives? [that turn our sorrow into JOY!]

.... Can God take that which is DEAD and Even Under His Holy Judgement and Bring it to Newness of Life?

Ps 16 ... Life Lived Under the Shadow of the God of Resurrection

— The Reality of the Resurrection (that was still many years in the future) was the basis for David's NOW PERSPECTIVE on His Life— "The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed I have a beautiful inheritance."

NOTE: What Was "Significant" to David? It was the Future Hope Provided in the God of the Resurrection. ... If God can conquer death and He promises to on my behalf, then what do I have to be Anxious About? If This God is For Me, of What/Whom Shall I Fear?

THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION TOUCHES TODAY'S HOPE & JOY

If Death is the Ace of Spades ... Resurrection is the "TRUMP CARD" that Overcomes Death! ... But when we look at the Scriptures, we don't find the Bible teaching us how to hold the "Trump Card" until the day we die, but rather to Play It Over and Over Again throughout Our Lives

1Pet 1:3-21

2 Cor 1:8-10 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope.

— The Reason Resurrection Hope is a LIVING HOPE, is Because Ultimately it is Not in Resurrection, but in the God of Resurrection! The God who will Overcome Death, when Death Plays it's Card, will Also Overcome Life's Trials When They Occur!! Resurrection Power doesn't just touch my life at it's end, it is the power that is ALWAYS AT WORK in My life.