

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

Jesus' Resurrection and the Life of a Christian

Is the fact that Jesus rose from the grave about 2,000 years ago really all that important to a Christian's faith? What if Jesus had never risen from the tomb in which He was buried? What if He were in the grave today? Could we still be Christians if Jesus had never arisen?

Consider what the apostle Paul told the Christians at Corinth about the resurrection of Christ. In a passage where he was writing about the reality of the resurrection of the dead at the end of time, he also mentioned Christ's resurrection, saying, “If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty” (1 Corinthians 15:14). Then, three verses later, he made a similar statement, saying, “If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (15:17). In other words, without Jesus' resurrection, no one would have any hope of going to heaven. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith (cf. Romans 1:4).

The early church multiplied quickly in just a few short years. They grew by “leaps and bounds.” People were obeying the Gospel by the thousands, and one central message laid at the heart of their decision—the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Had Jesus never been raised from the grave, the Gospel never could have been preached. The Gospel is not about a “lifeless lord,” but a “risen Redeemer.” Jesus' resurrection gives meaning to a Christian's faith.

1. Every Sunday when Christians partake of the Lord's Supper, we remember the Lord's death “until He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). If Jesus were not risen, however, we would have no hope of His coming again, and Paul's statement here regarding the Lord's Supper would be meaningless.
2. Every time Christians pray “in Jesus name,” we are relying on a risen Savior—Jesus—to mediate on our behalf (1 Timothy 2:5; cf. John 14:6; 1 John 2:1). But, if Jesus were not risen, our prayers would not be heard, and our petitions to have our sins forgiven could not be granted.
3. The only reason that preaching and baptizing (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16) are of any importance at all is because **Jesus is not dead**, but alive. When a person is baptized “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), he is raised from a world of sin, “just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father” (Romans 6:4).

Christians always need to keep in mind how important Jesus' resurrection is to our faith. We must not let the fact that Jesus' resurrection occurred nearly 2,000 years ago lessen the importance of His victory over death.

- by Eric Lyons, M.Min.

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THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 39, NUMBER 30 August 4, 2013

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: HARVEY ALLEN

PM: HARVEY ALLEN

**"BE NOT OVERCOME OF EVIL,
BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD" - ROMANS 12:21**

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided
Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- Keep our sister **Dorothy Gray** in your prayers as she goes through an especially trying time—that she be strengthened with the strength of our Lord.
- **Katie Kennedy** is to have kidney stone surgery and **Paula Kennedy** is awaiting the results of an arteriogram. Keep them in your prayers.
- **Dawn and Jones Gamble** made it back safely from Florida, though Jones had to pull over in Savannah on the way back due to *really* heavy rain Wed night.
- **Samantha Mancuso** has recovered from a very bad bout of pink eye. We're glad.
- **Margaret Herring** has been able to make it out to the assembly several times now, though plagued with a variety of ills. Keep her in your prayers.
- Prayers continue to be requested for **Caleb Sams** 19, son of **Kirk Sams** preacher at the Kannapolis NC church of Christ. Caleb is fighting bone cancer that has metastasized. He's already lost a leg to it. He's going through a severe regimen of chemotherapy that is very trying. Pray for him and the family, that God will be merciful
- Please keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here. To those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." - Philippians 4:6

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Please sign up to clean the building some time.**
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors!** Brother **Gamble** posts a list each week of visitors and those of our number who need encouragement.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." -Philippians 4:13

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- We rejoice with **Stephanie Rigney** as the results of her PET scan show she is in remission—cancer free; that our God is a merciful God who hears our prayers.

“Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, ...” - 2 Corinthians 1:3

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

The One Body

"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Tim. 2:5-6). Christ is the *only* mediator between God and men, and we cannot be saved except through him. Those who reject Christ will be left out.

Not only is there one God and one mediator between God and men, but there is one body (Eph. 4:4). "**But now are they many members, yet but one body.**" (1 Cor. 12:20). That one body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Christ is the head of the church, as the man is the head of his wife. "**For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.**" (Eph. 5:23). That church is the one body, which is made up of Christians.

There are not two bodies — a kingdom and a church — for the church is the kingdom of Christ. This harmonizes with the statement that there is one body. Then there is "*but one body*", whether it be called "church" or "kingdom." Christ is the head of the church, or He is the King of the kingdom.

- E.M. Borden, Gospel preacher, late 1800's– early 1900', in Texas

The Same Way Now

Since the church of Christ is still in existence, should I be considered out of order when I contend that people enter the church now just as the people in the first century? "**Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls**" (Acts 2:41).

Peter preached the word, the people heard, believed, and repented, and the preachers baptized those who demanded it, but Christ accepted their obedience and received them into the church. "**And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved**" (Acts 2:47). Are people added to the same church in the same way now? The answer is, "Yes," for the Bible has not changed, and neither has Jesus Christ. Will you obey the Lord as they did on Pentecost and be added to His church by Him?

- E.M. Borden, Gospel preacher, late 1800's– early 1900', in Texas

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