

2024 Easter Sunday is coming... **The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important doctrine and event of the Christian Faith, for every other doctrine only has value if we live again after we die in bodily form.**

- (Tim please put this on the screen)

The word Resurrection is a noun; Resurrection means to restore life to it's former condition and existence... a return to a physical body in the physical universe on the physical earth.

Why is this so important?

- **Scripture indicates that God designed our bodies to be an integral part of our total being. Our physical bodies are an essential aspect of who we are, not just shells for our spirits to inhabit ...**

Genesis 2:7 the LORD God *formed* the man from the dust of the ground (the element of the earth)... *and breathed into* his nostrils the breath of life (spirit), and the man became a living being. (a soul...personhood)

- **Death is an abnormal condition because it tears apart what God created and joined together ...not only human beings but all God's creation**
- **It is the most important doctrine of our faith...without the resurrection nothing else in Christianity matters....**
- **Listen to what The Apostle Paul says...**

NLT 1 Cor 15:13 For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.

- **If Jesus did not resurrect...Our Faith is useless... it is worth absolutely nothing it is futile...there is no point to our faith...**

NLT 15:16 And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are

more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

- If Jesus did not resurrect...What we preach is useless... has absolutely no value for you still carry the consequence of your sins...death...
- So believing in Jesus is of absolutely no value, beyond this life. Therefore we are to be pitied not listened too.
- If Jesus did not resurrect... we are liars and should not be believed in anything pertaining to God...
- and Christianity is the meanest cruelest HOAX— it is a lie and sadistic.

And he finishes this proposition with...

NLT 1 Corinthians 15:32if there will be no resurrection from the dead? And if there is no resurrection, “Let’s feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!”^[g]

- if the resurrection is not true...death is final...do what you want then we die! **If Jesus did not resurrect...we just sang to a dead man, we pray to a dead man, I foolishly preach about a dead man, we worship a powerless dead man, we put trust in a dead man! We would truly be the most foolish of all!!**

“BUT,” as Paul simply says here...

*NLT 1CO 15:20 **But** in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.*

His resurrection is directly connected to us, he is the first of the great resurrection harvest....we are included.

- His resurrection body is similar to what our resurrection body will be like.
- **The teaching of the Church maintains that wholeness of the human being is defined by the resurrection and nothing less.**

The promise is that one day we shall have physical bodies “like his glorious body”

John tells us we will be like him...and them also

*NLT 1JN 3: 2 Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that **we will be like him**, for we will see him as he really is.*

Paul speaks of it like this...

NLT Philippians 3: 20 And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21 He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

NLT 1CO 15: 42 It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. 43 Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength.

our bodies will die return to the ground...and will be resurrected to live forever...their will be continuity...

- **the brokenness of the body is it dies...that is its weakness**
- **its glory is that it will be raised in strength!**

And Paul tells us something else...He expounds on the depth of Resurrection...it includes all of God's creation...Just as all creation was effected by the fall of man...the redemption effects all of creation...

NLT Romans 8: 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

- **Damaged creation cries out to be repaired... His plan to repair it. He is going to remodel the old earth on a grand scale...**
- **What is the glory?? We will live again,we will resurrect with new**

bodies...the earth will be renewed and rebirthed...!! the new life is waiting to be born...

NLT Romans 8: ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children,^[1] including the new bodies he has promised us.

- **the our adoption is completed with the redemption of our bodies!**
- **Jesus disciples did not understand this...and following this death..**
- **Jesus knew this revelation we have been given... was way to much for disciples to comprehend...at his last supper ... while washing their feet ...He told them :**

Nlt John 13:7 Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”

He also tells them later that night ..before he is arrested..

NLT John 16:12 “¹² “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now.

- **These disciples were setting the example for all those who have followed Jesus since... we don't realize the whole picture of what God is doing now! But we will**
- **It is revealed a little by little....They believed Jesus to be the expectant messiah... But he will be dead shortly, they don’t understand... but death had to be conquered...or else everything they believe about the Messiah...is temporary for death still reigns**

******And this is where we pick up the story of Jesus resurrection... a few of the women were going to go back to the tomb, none of the disciples believed Jesus would rise from the dead literally...so they were going to complete the proper Jewish burial procedures...at give their beloved teacher a proper burial. anoint Jesus body and say we love you...and good bye and delay body decomposition...**

NLT LK 24:1 But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

- **The women came to the tomb very early, before it was light outside ...The women were NOT looking for a resurrected man, but for a DEAD man.**
- **We can believe and love Jesus ...just like these ladies did And still not believe Jesus words ...**

*2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ³ So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? ⁶ **He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!** Remember what he told you back in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man^l must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."*

- **The Key to faith is trusting the words of Jesus ...when circumstances contradict it! But they weren't the only ones...**

LK 24: ⁸ Then they remembered that he had said this. ⁹ So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. ¹¹ But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.

The apostles...the A TEAM...thought it was nonsense that Jesus could actually be alive live after dying ...how often we dismiss God's word because it does not make sense....well it is supernatural...so the natural mid cannot grasp it

- **We often have the same problem...our spiritual understanding is filtered though our current circumstances...instead of our current circumstances filtered through the words of Jesus!!**

- **This life is passing... resurrected life is forever!!! Not the other way around!!**

So we pick up the narrative their response to the women ...

*NLT JN 20: 3 Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. 4 They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. 6 Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, 7 while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. 8 Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, **and he saw and believed**— 9 for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. 10 Then they went home. **John being a son of thunder and competitive...wants us to know two things...one he can beat peter in a foot race...and two he believed Jesus rose before peter did..***

For those of us like the women and the Apostles who believe but because they can't understand also disbelieve

- **Thank God Jesus knows our faulty reasoning ...does not give up on us....! after everyone leaves.... **Mary Magdalene** hangs out.... **Mary is CRYING; I mean SOBBING. Not everyone responds to grief and loss the same...the rest went home...she could not pull herself away****

*John 20:11 Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. 12 She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. 13 "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 **She turned to leave** and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. 15 "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."*

- Standing outside the tomb in the garden she would expect to see a gardener rather than Jesus.
- She must have turned away quickly and stayed turned from Him for most of the contact and conversation, because the Scripture tells us that she turns **BACK** toward Him when He mentions her name.

¹⁶ “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).

She called Him Rabboni...the I means personal...he was now her personal master because she saw him alive...

¹⁷ “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

- **The one she thought was dead...He is alive...there is a life after death...**

When Mary grabs him he has a body!, she is not letting go this time..... But he must go to heaven...*that is his home for now and his throne ...*

******key part....going to my Father and that is where he is alive and right now...this is for us**

NLT Hebrews 10: ¹¹ Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. ¹² But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. **Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand.** ¹³ There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. ¹⁴ For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy. ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says, ¹⁶ “This is the new covenant I will

make with my people on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”¹⁷ Then he says, “I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds.”¹⁸ And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices.¹⁹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.

He came from the heavenlies, (I am returning) from the visible to the invisible, Jesus was God...death could not hold him...he came to free us from it... that which could hold us..

- **And he was going to go back He see’s his and her God and Father... to reign in power over all things**
- **He waits all opposition to be made lower than him....which means as they try to assert their power he puts them down...**
- **And he perfects matures us in walking by his power...**

But Jesus is not going to stay there forever....he will come live with his people in the future...on the new earth with ...in his resurrected body along with us and our new bodies...completing our Inheritance...of what Jesus redeemed..

NLT REV 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

*³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.^[a] ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”⁵ **And the one sitting on the throne said,** “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.”⁶ And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I*

will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

Until then....we wait and carry on!!

***NLT Romans 8:** ... wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children,^[1] including the new bodies he has promised us.*

- **the our adoption is completed with the redemption of our Resurrected bodies...**

Hebrews 4:14 So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testing's we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Ending???