

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Jesus Christ is risen

MARCH 31, 2024

ACTS 17:22-34
PASTOR PHIL WARD

SERMON OUTLINE notes

I. HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION (1 CORINTHIANS 15:14-17)

- A. The Christian faith hangs on the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:14-17)
- B. So, what are historical foundations of the resurrection?
 - 1. The transformation of Jesus' disciples (Mark 14:30-31; 69-71; Acts 5:28-33), of Jesus' brother James (John 7:5; Mark 3:21; Acts 15:13; Galatians 1:19), of Paul (Acts 8:3; Acts 9:1-2; Philippians 3:8-11)
 - 2. Gathered worship moved from Saturday to Sunday (Mark 16:2; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10)

II. EXPANDING IMPLICATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

- A. Because Jesus Christ is risen, there is new life through faith in him (Romans 6:4)
 - 1. The old life of sin is removed and the new life of righteousness has come (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - 2. Because Jesus died and rose again, those who repent and believe will be forgiven their sins (Luke 24:46-47)
- B. Because Jesus Christ is risen, there is a living hope beyond the grave (John 11:25-26)
 - 1. We can have hope of true life after death (Hebrews 2:14-15; 2 Timothy 1:10)
 - 2. Because Jesus rose again, those who repent and believe have a living hope of eternal life (1 Peter 1:3-4)
- C. Because Jesus Christ is risen, there is a final day of judgment when God will judge the world according to the righteousness of Jesus (Acts 17:22-34)
 - 1. There is no fear of condemnation for those who are believers in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:30-31; Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - 2. Because Jesus rose again, there is assurance of a judgment day where all wrong will be redressed, and those in Christ will be acquitted (Matthew 10:32-33)

III. HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS? (ACTS 17:32-34)

ACTS 17:22-34

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." 33 At that, Paul left the Council. 34 Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. What are two historical foundations of the resurrection? What can these tell us about believing in Jesus' resurrection?

?KIDS+STUDENTS

2. What is the connection between Jesus' resurrection and the forgiveness of sins? Why is Jesus' resurrection essential to Christianity as a whole?

?KIDS

3. How can the resurrection of Jesus give us hope? What is the living hope that Jesus offers to those who will believe?

?STUDENTS

4. Why is the resurrection of Jesus related to Judgment Day? How can this be reassuring for Christians? How can it serve as a warning to unbelievers?
5. In your response to the resurrection of Jesus, are you a red, yellow, or green light? How do those responses help us know what to expect the response of others to be?