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Part Two: worry to *peace!*

March 10, 2024

Christ's resurrection is not just a Christian doctrine to believe or a holiday to be celebrated once a year in the Spring. It is a supernatural force that can transform you into a new person with a new purpose for living. If you allow it, the resurrection of Jesus Christ can alter your life forever!

Three facts about Jesus' resurrection:

1. Jesus' resurrection was His most important miracle.

Jesus performed many miracles during His earthly ministry, but only two are recorded in all four Gospels—the feeding of the 5,000 and His resurrection. Jesus fed the 5,000 to show He is the Bread of Life that gives eternal life to all who believe in Him (John 6). Jesus rose from the dead to show He is who He claimed to be and has the power to provide eternal life to all who place faith in Him.

2. The resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of the Christian faith.

Everything we are and hope for is based on Jesus' resurrection. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, he wasn't who he claimed to be, and Christianity is a false religion founded by a liar or a lunatic. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, he did not pay for our sins, and life after death is not sure. If Christ did not rise from the dead, your faith in Him is useless (1 Cor. 15:17–22).

3. The resurrection of Christ changed the world.

The resurrection of Christ changed His followers, who then changed the world with the Gospel. Everything Christian in our world today came from the risen Lord!

- Mary Magdalene was the first person to visit Jesus' tomb on Easter. John 20:1-2
- Peter and John ran to investigate the empty tomb. John 20:3-10

The tomb, which belonged to Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57-60), was carved into a large rock and was approximately 7 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 7.5 feet high. The entrance to the tomb was small, about 3 feet high and 2.5 feet wide. There were benches carved in the wall of the tomb to lay out bodies. A large round stone (4.5 feet wide and 1 foot thick) had previously covered the tomb's entrance.

What did Peter and John find in the empty tomb?

- Jesus' graveclothes.

John saw the grave clothes and thought... *Why would thieves take the time to untwine the bandages and then place them in such an orderly fashion? The only logical explanation for the grave clothes left in the empty tomb was that Jesus had risen from the dead!*

- Jesus appeared to His disciples on Sunday evening. John 20:19-20

The disciples had heard that Jesus had risen from the dead from His female followers (John 20:11-16; Matt. 28:8-10), two men who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), and from Peter who had a personal meeting with Jesus sometime Sunday afternoon (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5). The men knew Jesus was alive, but they did not know what that meant for them.

What happened when the disciples were in the presence of the risen Lord?

- They traded their worry for peace!

Jesus could have rebuked His disciples for their unfaithfulness and cowardice the previous weekend, but He did not. He gave His disciples the traditional greeting, “Shalom—peace be with you.” Christ did not shame the men; He gave them peace. The work of the cross is peace (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:14–17), and the message they would carry would be the Gospel of peace (Rom. 10:15). So, the Prince of Peace gave the worried men peace.

What must you do to have peace through Jesus?

1st- You must put your faith in Jesus for salvation. Romans 3:19-26

2nd – You must place your worries in Jesus’ nail-pieced hands. Phil 4:4-9; 1 Peter 5:7

If you are living in a state of worry, you need to see the risen Lord and hear Him say, “*Peace be with you!*” You need to give all your doubts, worries, and fears to the Prince of Peace.