

## Chapter 3

# CHRIST'S GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

In other chapters, we have considered our great salvation, which was part of God's plan, designed before the beginning of time and scheduled to end at the time of Christ's marvelous second coming.

We have reviewed the chronological events of salvation, beginning with God choosing us and dragging us to salvation, in collaboration with the Holy Spirit's conviction, which brought us to the point of faith in Christ's sacrifice for our personal salvation. These actions secured unchangeable positions, gained through our salvation, and made efficacious for us by our faith in Christ's substitutionary death (punishment) for our sins.

While Christ's death dealt with our personal sins so we would be found innocent, the key to eternal life is His resurrection. Scripture states that without resurrection, we would remain dead in our sins (1 Corinthians 15:17).



## **CHRIST'S RESURRECTION ENABLED OUR SECURE POSITION BEFORE GOD.**

It is Christ's resurrection that:

- allowed Him to ascend to heaven to send the Holy Spirit to seal us (Romans 8:9)
- to head the family of God into which we are adopted (Ephesians 1:5)
- to spiritually baptize us so we are identified with His new life and created as a new person (Romans 6:2-10).

# SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

The specific importance of the resurrection rests in several key biblical concepts:

## 1 REGARDING JESUS CHRIST

If Christ did not rise from the dead, He cannot be God, God's promises are voided, Christ does not have the power of God, He did not ascend to heaven and begin the church, He cannot minister to us now nor will He return to establish eternity and reign in His Kingdom. Consequently, the resurrection is central to who God is and His promises.

## 2 REGARDING MAN

The resurrection is central to our salvation and our identity as Christians. The effects of the resurrection on man are described by a number of concepts in the New Testament epistles, the most prevalent being spiritual baptism. This is an important biblical truth which is vital in understanding our transformation into Christians when we believe for our salvation.

# WHEN WE BECOME CHRISTIANS, WE ARE IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST'S DEATH, RESURRECTION, & ASCENSION

*baptized, Greek: baptizo*

Otherwise, our old self dies at salvation and is buried with Christ. We are raised (resurrected) to new life with Him, and spiritually, we sit with Him on the right hand of God the Father (Romans 6:2-12; Ephesians 2:4-7; Colossians 2:12-13).

Similar concepts in the epistles that are based on the resurrection are:

- regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- born again (John 3:5)
- a new man (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10)
- Christ in you the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27),
- the anointing by the Spirit (1 John 2:20,27)
- the seed (1 John 3:9).

# BENEFITS OF RESURRECTION

Notably, the resurrection provides the following benefits, which I include with my mnemonic **HELP** to assist you in remembering these points.

## HELP



H

**HOLINESS**

Our new life in Christ allows us to be viewed as holy by God, so we can now access Him (Hebrews 10:19-22). Indeed, without the resurrection and our new life, we would still be dead despite our forgiveness. This is because, without the regeneration (spiritual baptism) resulting from the resurrection, we would still be “in our sins” because of our fallen, depraved nature inherited from Adam (1 Corinthians 15:17-19; Ephesians 2:3). Because we are a new holy person based on Christ’s resurrection, we have the freedom to come boldly to God in prayer without hindrance or need for a human intercessor (Hebrews 10:20-23).



E

**ETERNAL  
LIFE**

Because of the resurrection, we are raised with Christ to new life. God now views us as holy and can enter heaven and eternal life when our physical life ends. The regeneration helps prove we cannot lose our salvation because scripture does not indicate that our new self can be killed and the old dead self re-resurrected like some bad re-make of the ‘Night of the Living Dead’ movie!

Death no longer has dominion over us (1 Corinthians 15:48-58; Romans 6:9).

# HELP



L

**LABOR**  
(ABLE TO SERVE)

Since we are resurrected to a new and holy person and possess the Holy Spirit, we are a new person who can serve God according to His will (Romans 6:11-16; Ephesians 2:10). We were not able to do His works before becoming a Christian (Romans 3:10-12).

Importantly, the resurrection provides an example to us of the immense power of God that helps us live our daily lives as Christians. We have this incredible power to help us live our lives and help others (Romans 8:10-12).



P

**POWER**  
NOT TO SIN

Although every believer sins, we can resist sin because, as a new person in Christ, we have the power of the Holy Spirit to live victorious lives.

We can say “no” to sin (Romans 8:13)!

# SUMMARY

By Christ's resurrection, we are transformed permanently to a new life, identified with Christ and sitting with Him in heaven. These changes cannot be reversed. What a great comfort we have in the truth of scripture!

Therefore, as a new person, we are liberated from sin and free to serve Christ. We cannot be defeated by the misdeeds of our old self nor affected by Adam's fall (Romans 6:11-23).

What a great salvation we have, which God planned before all time and carried out in His wisdom, knowledge, love, and for His own pleasure (Ephesians 1:4-8).

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