

Resurrection Realities

"Χριστός ἀνέστη!" - "Christ is Risen!"

"Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!" - "Truly He is Risen," or "He is risen indeed!"

It is Easter Sunday and we are celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But why is the resurrection more important than the Christ's death? **Galatians 3:13** says, "*Christ has **redeemed** us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree').*" With regards Christ's death, **redemption** essentially means deliverance from punishment by death as a result of payment at very high price. To redeem is to buy back, whether as a purchase or a ransom price. Jesus Christ **redeemed** us from the effect of our sins, buying us back by paying a very costly ransom price.

All of us were kidnapped spiritually by Satan (the arch-adversary of God and humanity), but the blood of Jesus Christ more than covers the ransom price. Our Saviour said that He came "*to give His life a ransom for many*" (**Mark 10:45**). Paul adds, "*We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins*" (**Colossians 1:14**). **Redemption** is eternal in its effects. It ultimately means everlasting life in the Kingdom of God. However, without the shedding of blood there could be no **redemption**, and consequently, none of us would be free from the eternal consequence of sin (whose penalty is death). In fact, Christ died that we may live! And whether He rose again or not, the price was paid in full on the cross!

The death of Jesus Christ is vitally important, because in God's plan it accomplished the purchase of three things all at once:

1. Jesus died as an "*exchange*" or "*ransom*" for the first man Adam, whose disobedience had brought the penalty of death upon all of mankind. This made Jesus "the 2nd Adam", and His one righteous act of sacrifice brought about the 'free gift' of justification for all of us (**Romans 5:18-21**).
2. Jesus died as a "sin offering" for all of us. His death, as a "sympathetic high priest," qualifies Him to be our "advocate" with the Father. He can express His compassion for us whenever we fall short or not. **1 John 2:2** clearly states that Christ's sacrifice achieved God's desired result, and now, we can approach the throne of God's grace "boldly."
3. When Jesus' blood spilled on the ground, it signalled another part of redemption, that is, that the earth itself was 'purchased' by Christ at His death. Now, He holds Title Deed to this "purchased possession." Therefore, He has the legal right to bring to fruition the "times of restitution of all things."

From the above three points, it's clear that the death of Jesus Christ is truly significant to all of us.

But why is Christ's resurrection is even more important than His death?

1. It is the **resurrected Jesus** who personally engages with us. When Paul was persecuting the early church, it was Jesus who appeared to Him, saying, "*Saul, Saul, why do you persecute ME?*" Jesus feels

every pain that you feel. He may be the Head, but every member of His Body is very important to Him.

2. The **resurrected Jesus** provides the righteous covering that allows God to enter into a relationship with us. Though we are still incomplete, God provided the **resurrected** Lord Jesus as our robe of righteousness. This way, we are accepted and able to boldly enter the throne of God's grace.
3. Often in our Christian walk we make mistakes or wilfully sin, and these actions can separate us from God. But the "living" Jesus speaks on our behalf with God (continually). The **resurrected** Jesus is our advocate, our spokesman before the Father.

In summary, the **death** of Jesus purchased life for the human race. However, to be the King who "rules and reigns forever," He needed to become the **resurrected** Christ. Did you noticed something? Christ's **death** purchases both people and land, yet the King cannot rule over either until He has been reinstated. And because the purchase price was "death" itself, it required something truly supernatural, something extremely powerful, something divine in nature, to reinstate the King. This was the **resurrection!**

For Jesus Christ to rule and reign over everything that His death had already purchased, He need to be **resurrected** to new life! And it took resurrection power to bring this about! What's very important for us to understand is this.... If Jesus died as a spotless and sinless man, and nothing else, the price for our sins would have been paid and we would have been redeemed! However, there would be no one watching over our souls. There would be no authority to enforce the devil's defeat. There would be no King on the throne of the kingdom of God. It would be like a person securing an empire and not being around to rule over it.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is all about power and authority! The King rules and reigns, and He is seated at the right hand of God with His enemies under His feet. And because He is alive, we as joint-heirs have the very same privileges. If Jesus never rose from the dead there would be no victory to enjoy. His resurrection caused us to be more than conquerors. God's word tells us to know Christ and the **power** of His **resurrection (Philippians 3:10)**. The same **power** that resurrected Jesus from the dead is available to you and me.

Here are three Resurrection Realities to live by:

- BECAUSE JESUS HAS RISEN, FEAR HAS BEEN REPLACED BY PEACE. *When therefore it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."* (John 20:19).
- BECAUSE JESUS HAS RISEN, WE HAVE AUTHORITY FROM ON HIGH. *And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."* (John 20:21-23).
- BECAUSE JESUS HAS RISEN, WE HAVE RESURRECTION POWER LIVING IN US. The very same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead - lives in us! **Romans 8:11** declares, *"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give*

life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” Another translation says, “Nevertheless once the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives within you, He will, by that same Spirit, bring to your whole being new strength and vitality.”

Power always accompanies **resurrection**, and the early church knew this. **Acts 4:33** says, “*And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.*”

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