

## **RESURRECTION:**

### DEFINITIONS – Mckim – Westminster Dictionary

- DEFINITION: Resurrection - Latin “resurrectio” “A rising again from the dead.”
- DEFINITION: First Resurrection – a physical resurrection of believers before the millennial reign of Christ.
- DEFINITION: Resurrected body - The body that believers in Christ will receive when they are raised. This body will exist for all eternity. It is a transformation of the physical to the spiritual. The identity of the human personality is maintained.
- DEFINITION: Resurrected life – New life, new creation or new existence that is given to all who embrace the Gospel of Christ, that is Christ death, burial and resurrection.
- DEFINITION: Resurrection of Jesus Christ – Jesus Christ was raised from the dead on the third day of death by the power of God. Therefore, Christ is a live and is to be worshipped as the risen Lord.
- DEFINITION: (Grudem) Receiving our resurrected bodies or “Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own.

### GENERAL UNDERSTANDING:

- A resurrected body is called a glorified body. It is perfect in all regards. It is eternal, will not age, decay, or face death.
- Christ’s resurrected body was different. Mary did not immediately recognize Him, the people on the road of Emmaus did not know Him, He could be touched, He walk with them, He ate with them...even though His body was the spiritual body, He still had some resemblance of His early physical body. See Luke 24:39]
- Genesis 1:31 – “Very Good” the material of the flesh that God originally intended was to be eternal before sin corrupted the flesh. Jesus is the manifestation of the goodness of God’s creation. Rev.22:1-2 – creates a new Heaven and a New Earth that are described in very material terms. The new created universe is where we will dwell in our resurrected form forever.
- Understand that many believed that material was evil and bad. So to have bodily resurrection was something rejected by many in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century.
- The Resurrection is so essential to our faith that we must understand that Jesus’ resurrection was literal, so to ours will be. We also must conclude that our resurrected bodies will be like Christ’s resurrected body.
- Just as God resurrected the lifeless body of Christ into its resurrected state so it shall be with us. God will take the remains of our bodies and transform it to our spiritual body. Giving us our glorious bodies for all of eternity.

## **RELEVANCY:**

- The Resurrection of Christ is important to understanding End Times because we all will face the Resurrected Lord and we will partake of the resurrection.
- The Resurrection gives us hope and assurance of Christ's Return and our Reunion with Him and all believers.
- Death's power is destroyed...the debt paid on the cross, the penalty of death conquered with the empty tomb opening the gates of an eternity wide open and spending eternity with God a reality.
- Christ conquered death and ascended unto Heaven and will come back likewise – making the resurrection and ascension proof of His Return.

## ***PERSONAL REFLECTION:***

What does the resurrection of Christ mean to you?  
What is the spiritual significance of the resurrection?  
Can we be sure about the resurrection of Christ?

## ***WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION OUR FAITH IS MEANINGLESS:***

### ***1 Corinthians 15:12-17***

“Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, "There is no resurrection of the dead"? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is without foundation, and so is your faith. In addition, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified about God that He raised up Christ—whom He did not raise up if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins”

### ***1 Corinthians 15:32***

“If the dead are not raised, Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

- If Christ is not raised what does this do to our message and faith?
- If Christ is not raised what does what is our status with God?

## ***WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION HISTORY IS MEANINGLESS:***

### ***Matthew 28:1-15 Resurrection Morning***

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to view the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached [the tomb]. He rolled back the

stone and was sitting on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his robe was as white as snow. 4 The guards were so shaken from fear of him that they became like dead men. 5 But the angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here! For He has been resurrected, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell His disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead. In fact, He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see Him there.' Listen, I have told you." 8 So, departing quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, they ran to tell His disciples the news. 9 Just then Jesus met them and said, "Good morning!" They came up, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see Me there." 11 As they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 After the priests had assembled with the elders and agreed on a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money 13 and told them, "Say this, 'His disciples came during the night and stole Him while we were sleeping.' 14 If this reaches the governor's ears, we will deal with him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been spread among Jewish people to this day.

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION: (Also in Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-21:25.)

### *1 Corinthians 15:6*

“Then He (Jesus) appeared to over 500 brothers at one time, most of whom remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep”

- Is the resurrection an historic event?
- The New Testament bears witness of the resurrection in its entirety.
- It is not only the key point to Christianity, but to all of History.
- (EDT) Attempts to explain away the resurrection has failed, in other words it cannot be disproved by historical facts. However, the resurrection stands under the scrutiny of historical evaluation as fact. Historical facts all lead to one conclusion – the resurrection of Jesus Christ actually happened.
- (EDT) Historical evidence exists in the form of eyewitnesses and testimony of Jesus' appearance after the crucifixion. This is required for the determination of historic fact. So the appearances, the empty tomb, the inability of Jewish leaders to disprove the resurrection and come up with the body of Jesus and the conversions of skeptics as a result of Jesus' resurrection all verify one thing – the resurrection is reality.
- (EDT) Historical experience leads us to conclude that the resurrection really happened. The crucifixion really happened. The followers of Jesus were in hiding at his death for the most part and in total despair in the aftermath. However, something happened experientially to them. They truly believed and lived as if the resurrection was real. This transformation has no other explanation. These experiential transformational facts are admitted by all scholars even those trying to disprove it.

Christianity and in fact all of humanity are dependent upon the historicity of the resurrection. If Christ is risen then He is who He said He was and who the Apostles proclaimed Him to be. He is the risen Lord that is to be adored, worshipped, and exalted as the Head of the Church. He will return for His people and will Judge all of creation. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords who reigns on high.

### ***THE MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION TO OUR LIVES:***

#### ***Romans 6:1-10***

1 What should we say then? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may multiply? 2 Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way of life. 5 For if we have been joined with Him in the likeness of His death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of His resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that sin's dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, 7 since a person who has died is freed from sin's claims. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him, 9 because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, no longer dies. Death no longer rules over Him. 10 For in that He died, He died to sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives to God.

- We are a new creation in Christ – called to a new way of living.
- Christians must identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
- The chains of death are broken as we face death we also we face the resurrection.
- Death no longer rules Him, the grave is conquered, the penalty of our sin paid in full.

#### ***Personal Reflection:***

- What does it mean live a new way of life?
- Why must a believer associate with the death, burial and resurrection through baptism?
- Do you see the symbolism through baptism?
- Do you see the importance of transformation as the reality of the resurrection?

### ***A BIBLICAL EXAMINATION OF THE RESURRECTION:***

#### **1 Corinthians 15**

**Resurrection Essential to the Gospel – the resurrection fulfills the good news that Jesus saves giving His mission permanency, validation, and application to our lives.**

1 Now brothers, I want to clarify for you the gospel I proclaimed to you; you received it and have taken your stand on it. 2 You are also saved by it, if you hold to the message I proclaimed to you—unless you believed to no purpose. 3 For I passed on to you as most

important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. 6 Then He appeared to over 500 brothers at one time, most of whom remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one abnormally born, He also appeared to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by God's grace I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not ineffective. However, I worked more than any of them, yet not I, but God's grace that was with me. 11 Therefore, whether it is I or they, so we preach and so you have believed.

- What is of the utmost importance?
- Key component to the Gospel is the JESUS IS ALIVE!!!! He is the one and only, true, living God. By believing in Him you receive a resurrected life and eternal life. Death can no longer hold you.
- We are to preach the message of the Resurrected the Lord and so that all might believe.
- This is key to End Times because it provides us with what is of the utmost of importance no matter what is happening on earth...the Gospel message.

**Resurrection Essential to the Faith – believe in the resurrection is essential to living by faith, it defines our faith. Our Faith is worthless without the Resurrection.**

12 Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, "There is no resurrection of the dead"? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is without foundation, and so is your faith. 15 In addition, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified about God that He raised up Christ—whom He did not raise up if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Therefore those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. 19 If we have placed our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

**Christ's Resurrection Guarantees Our Resurrection – If Christ is not raised, we will not be raised. If Christ is raised then we have the guarantee of the resurrection ourselves.**

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. 22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ, the first fruits; afterward, at His coming, the people of Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when He abolishes all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He puts all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy to be abolished is death. 27 For He has put everything under His feet. But when it says "everything" is put under Him, it is obvious that He who puts everything under Him is the exception. 28 And when

everything is subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who subjected everything to Him, so that God may be all in all.

- Who is the First Adam? What does he bring? Who does he represent?
- Who is the Second Adam? What does He bring? Who does He represent?
- Where is the evidence of a Millennium reign in this passage?

**Resurrection Supported by Christian Experience – We can experience the resurrection in our lives. We are to die everyday to live for Christ. The shame is that we should not embrace any false teachings that deny the resurrection of the body. The resurrection is part of our experience in life.**

29 Otherwise what will they do who are being baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, then why are people baptized for them? 30 Why are we in danger every hour? 31 I affirm by the pride in you that I have in Christ Jesus our Lord: I die every day! 32 If I fought wild animals in Ephesus with only human hope, what good does that do me? If the dead are not raised, Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." 34 Become right-minded and stop sinning, because some people are ignorant about God. I say this to your shame.

- Baptism of the dead...what does this mean?
- How are we to die daily?
- As pertaining to the End Times what is Paul's wake up call about how we live in the here and now?

**The Nature of the Resurrection Body – what the resurrected body is like.**

35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have when they come?" 36 Foolish one! What you sow does not come to life (unless it dies. 37 And as for what you sow—you are not sowing the future body, but only a seed, perhaps of wheat or another grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He wants, and to each of the seeds its own body. 39 Not all flesh is the same flesh; there is one flesh for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. 40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is different from that of the earthly ones. 41 There is a splendor of the sun, another of the moon, and another of the stars; for star differs from star in splendor. 42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption; 43 sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power; 44 sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So it is written: The first man Adam became a living being ; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth and made of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 Like the man made of dust, so are those who are made of dust; like the heavenly man, so are those who are heavenly. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the man made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly man.

- Is resurrection reconstruction? Will we have the same bodies?
- How does the sowing principle play a role in the resurrection?
- What is the importance of image bearing in this passage of Scripture?

### **Victory of the Resurrection – the reward of the resurrection.**

50 Brothers, I tell you this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and corruption cannot inherit incorruption. 51 Listen! I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. 53 Because this corruptible must be clothed with corruptibility, and this mortal must be clothed with immortality. 54 Now when this corruptible is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: Death has been swallowed up in victory. 55 O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting? 56 Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! 58 Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

- **What is the mystery?**
- **WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VERSE 58. IF WE REALLY BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION WHAT IS THE RESULT IN OUR LIVES?**

### ***CONNECTING THE RESURRECTION AND THE ASCENSION TO END TIMES***

**What does the resurrection have to do with the Ascension?**

**What is the significance of the Ascension?**

#### **Acts 1:9-11 The Ascension**

9 After He had said this, He was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 While He was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. <sup>(H)</sup> 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven." <sup>(I)</sup>