

The Power of Christ's Resurrection

John 20:19-31

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the great cornerstone of the Christian faith. Everything that we are, and have, and ever hope to be, all that we believe in is based on the reality of the resurrection (1 Cor.15:12-20). The first sermon ever preached in the church the day the church was born was a sermon on the resurrection (Acts 2:22 ff). The reality of the resurrection became the theme of all apostolic preaching. Paul prayed in Philippians 3:10, "that I may know Him (Christ) and *the power of His resurrection.*" The transforming power of Christ's resurrection changed the lives of the early disciples. It still does of people's lives today.

1. *The Resurrection of Jesus transformed their _____ into _____*

Because of their fear of the Jewish religious leaders the disciples were confined in one place (John 20:19). Though by this time the women had already seen Him and told the disciples about it (v. 18); so did two of his disciples who were on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:33-35). The Lord appeared to the disciples to remove their doubt and fear (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:41-43; cf. 2 Tim. 2:7).

2. *The Resurrection of Jesus turned their _____ into _____*

All except Thomas were present when the Lord Jesus appeared. They all believed the risen Christ except Thomas (John 20:25). The Lord Jesus rebuked Thomas for his unbelief the next time He showed Himself to them (v. 26). Thomas turned from a doubter to a worshipper. Faith which results from seeing is good; but faith which results from hearing is more excellent (Matt. 8:5-10; John 4:48 1 Peter 1:8). The resurrection of Christ gave the disciples all the assurance and boldness to preach the gospel (Acts 4:31).

3. *The Resurrection of Jesus transformed their destiny from _____ to _____*

John wrote this gospel to show that Jesus is not only the Son of God but that He is God the Son (John 1:1). Christ performed many more unrecorded signs and miracles to prove His deity. The resurrection of Jesus did not only prove His deity, it also gives us the assurance of eternal life (v. 30,31). Sinners are not saved by believing in miracles; they are saved by believing on Jesus Christ (John 1:12; Rom. 10:17).

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ has the power to transform lives. As Christians, we have the wonderful privilege of knowing that Jesus our Lord and Savior is truly risen! We see His reality in our lives - how He changed us, how He gave meaning to our lives, how He touched and healed our broken lives. It is also a sobering reality that Christ rose from the dead to confirm His coming judgment. Acts 17:31 says that God, "*has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.*" Only those whose lives are wholly given and surrendered to Jesus will receive God's favorable judgment. Is your life surrendered to Jesus?