

HOW JESUS' RESURRECTION BLESSES US

(Luke 24:36-49)

On the day of Jesus' resurrection, we don't find the disciples eagerly waiting at the tomb of the Lord Jesus to witness the miracle of His rising from the grave. Instead, the disciples were overwhelmed with paralyzing fear, painful ordeals and shattered hopes. Hence, when Jesus appeared to them as the Risen Christ, He encouraged and strengthened their faith with His words of comfort. As we ponder upon Christ's words to His disciples, let's reflect upon these three life-changing blessings of Jesus' resurrection.

1. ***Jesus' resurrection blesses us with _____.***
"Peace to you!" were the very first words that Jesus said to His fearful and troubled disciples when He appeared to them as a group (Lk. 24:36). Our Lord Jesus comes to them in the midst of their anxiety, doubt and despair and offers His peace. This peace of Christ is the presence of the sovereign and loving God in the midst of our troubles and fears (Isa. 41:10). In its fullest and ultimate sense, this peace is the peace of God which secured the salvation of His beloved people through Jesus' death and resurrection (Lk. 24:36-39). The resurrection of Christ is God's divine proclamation that Jesus' death on the Cross fully satisfied the demands of God's justice and righteousness and that reconciliation between God and those who trust in Christ is eternally established (Col. 1:20; Rom. 4:25; 5:1).

2. ***Jesus' resurrection blesses us with _____.***
Despite the fact that Jesus was physically present in their midst, the disciples were still slow of heart to believe. Hence, our Lord Jesus graciously gave them compelling physical proofs of His bodily resurrection to dispel their doubts (Lk. 24:38-43). More importantly, the Lord Jesus illumined their minds through the authoritative testimony of the Scriptures concerning His death and resurrection (Lk. 24:44-47). Jesus' bodily resurrection serves as the solid ground upon which our future hope for resurrection is built. In other words, Jesus' physical resurrection guarantees our future resurrection unto eternal life (Jn. 6:40; Phil. 3:20-21; Matt. 25:46).

3. ***Jesus' resurrection blesses us with _____.***
In light of Jesus' redeeming death and glorious resurrection, our Lord has commissioned all of His disciples to be His witnesses who are tasked to proclaim to all nations the gospel of repentance and forgiveness of sins in Christ's name (Lk. 24:47-48). In order to fulfill this task, Jesus has given His promise of the Holy Spirit to empower all believers to accomplish God's mission for their lives (Lk. 24:49). Jesus' original disciples laid out their lives for their risen Lord and Savior and faithfully proclaimed the gospel at the expense of their own lives. The Lord Jesus is calling each one of us who has received His saving peace and the blessing of glorious hope of resurrection to live and die for Christ and His gospel (2 Cor. 5:15; Rom. 14:8; Acts 20:24).
