

WHAT JESUS' RESURRECTION ACCOMPLISHED FOR US

(Luke 24:36-46)

“It’s all over now!” This must have been what the disciples of Jesus were thinking as they witnessed the brutal death of their Master on the Cross. This is why on the day of Christ’s resurrection, we don’t find the disciples eagerly waiting at Jesus’ tomb to see firsthand the miracle of His rising from the grave. Instead, the disciples were overwhelmed with paralyzing fear, painful disappointment 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 reflect on Christ’s words to His disciples, let’s consider these two significant accomplishments of Jesus’ resurrection.

1. Jesus’ resurrection secures our _____.

On the very evening of Jesus’ resurrection, the risen Christ appeared to His disciples as a group. “Peace to you!” were the very first words that Jesus said to His frightened and troubled followers (Luke 24:36). Our Lord Jesus comes to them in the midst of their anxiety, doubt and despair and offers His peace. 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 (Luke 24:36-39).

A crucified and deceased Jesus without the resurrection is a powerless Savior. The Cross without the Empty Tomb could never bring us to heaven. The resurrection of Christ, then, is God’s divine proclamation that Jesus’ sacrificial work on the Cross was effectual in delivering us from sin’s penalty, that His atoning death fully satisfied the demands of God’s justice, that God’s wrath has been turned aside, that our guilt is already covered and that we who trust in Christ are no longer enemies of God but beloved children of God. The resurrection of Jesus has saving and justifying power. We are saved by both the vicarious death of Christ and His victorious resurrection (Rom. 4:25; 10:9-10; 8:1; 1 Cor. 15:17-19; Psalm 103:8,12).

2. Jesus’ resurrection guarantees our _____.

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 (Luke 24:38-43). More importantly, the Lord Jesus illumined their minds through the authoritative testimony of the Scriptures concerning His death and resurrection (Luke 24:44-46). 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 (John 6:40; 11:40; 1 Cor. 6:14; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; Matt. 25:46).
