

Fil-Am Community Church
Pastor David Bennett
30 November 2014

The Resurrection of the Body

Good morning Fil-Am it is so good to see you here this morning, we appreciate your presence and do not ever want to take that for granted.

OK for time's sake let's get into the Word of God or more importantly let's get the Word of God into you.

We are continuing our series on The Apostles Creed and this morning we are dealing with the topic of The "Resurrection on the Body" The creed goes like this...

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell,
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the Resurrection of the Body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

It is the witness of the New Testament that the resurrection of Jesus is the pivotal point of Christian Theology and Apologetics.

The Resurrection according to Paul was the unveiling of God's Messianic Power through Jesus (Romans 1:4)

⁴ "Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord."

On Feb. 27, 1991, at the height of Desert Storm, Ruth Dillow received a very sad message from the Pentagon. It stated that her son, Clayton Carpenter, Private 1st Class, had stepped on a mine in Kuwait & was dead.

Ruth Dillow later wrote, "I can't begin to describe my grief & shock. It was almost more than I could bear. For 3 days I wept. For 3 days I expressed anger & loss. For 3 days people tried to comfort me, to no avail because the loss was too great."

But 3 days after she received that message, the telephone rang. The voice on the other end said, "Mom, it's me. I'm alive." Ruth Dillow said, "I couldn't believe it at first. But then I recognized his voice, & he really was alive." The message she had received was all a mistake!

She said, "I laughed, I cried, I felt like turning cartwheels, because my son whom I had thought was dead, was really alive. I'm sure none of you can even begin to understand how I felt."

Perhaps not, but some who walked the pages of the N.T. would have understood how she felt because they experienced the same emotions themselves. One day they watched their best friend & teacher being nailed to a cross. They witnessed His pain as He cried out, "I thirst!" & "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

They listened as finally He bowed His head & said, "It is finished!" & "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit." They watched as His body was taken from the cross & buried. All their hopes & dreams were buried with Him.

Friday & all day Saturday they mourned, until finally, on "the first day of the week, early in the morning," the scripture says, some women made their way along the path that led to His tomb, wondering who would roll away the stone for them.

But when they arrived, they found that the stone had already been rolled away. And an angel there told them, "You're looking in the wrong place. You're looking for Jesus among the dead. He is not dead. He is alive. He is risen, even as He said!"

"He is Risen!"

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NASB)

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, 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 imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 **Amplified Bible**

⁵¹ Take notice! I tell you a mystery (a secret truth, an event decreed by the hidden purpose or counsel of God). We shall not all fall asleep [in death], but we shall all be changed (transformed)

⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the [sound of the] last trumpet call. For a trumpet will sound, and the dead [in Christ] will be raised imperishable (free and immune from decay), and we shall be changed (transformed).

1 Corinthians 15:54 (NASB)

⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

I believe in the **Resurrection of the Body**, is very challenging as it goes against everything we see with our eyes.

We say the Creed to remind ourselves that we believe death will not have the final victory.

Christians believe that body itself will be raised from the dead.

Most people fear death and do not want to spend a lot of time talking about it. Death remains the final frontier that we all must cross sooner or later and though we all know it is coming, we prefer to live as if it won't.

Death is certain...

Hebrews 9:27 (NASB) ²⁷ *and inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,*

Death is not an End...

Hebrews 9:27 (NASB) ²⁷ ... *and after this comes judgment,*

Christ Defeated Death...

2 Timothy 1:10 (NASB) ¹⁰ *but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,*

Death Explained

Grey Barnhouse, whose wife had just died, was driving his kid's home from the funeral. One of the kids said, "Daddy" I don't understand where did mommy go?

I don't understand what it means that she died?

Barnhouse was trying desperately to figure out how to explain to his kids what death meant, when an eighteen wheeler truck pulled up beside them.

He had a thought and looked back at the kids and said, would you rather be hit by the truck or by its shadow?

They all responded that of course they would rather be hit by the shadow rather than the truck, because the shadow doesn't hurt and only last for a short period of time and then it passes.

Then Barnhouse said, Kids when you die without Christ you are hit by the truck, however when you die in Christ you are only hit by its shadow, the shadow is all Mommy got, because it is just temporary as she is now reunited with Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 (NASB)

⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. ⁵⁵ O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

Eternal Perspective

Reggie Jackson was a baseball player known as "Mr. October." He received his nickname because he was known to shine when his team played in the postseason playoffs.

Reggie would come up to bat, and the ball was going over someone's fence.

Reggie Jackson once said in an interview that he lived for the postseason because that is where he would shine.

But in order for Reggie Jackson to get to the post season had to first get through the regular season, and was asked what was his secret to getting to postseason?

His secret to shinning in the regular season was to keep his eyes on October.

God is looking for some Mr. and Mrs. Octobers, people with their eyes on eternity, which faithfully play the regular season because there looking forward to post season glory.

I. If Christ Was Not Raised from the Dead

A. Gospel **preaching** is in Vain... (1 Corinthians 15:14)

- ✓ The preaching of the apostles is empty, meaningless,
- ✓ The preaching of Pastors today is just as empty and meaningless,
- ✓ Because both would contain nothing more than a fairy tale, a story based on fiction, rather than reality.

B. Our **Faith** is in **Vain**... (1 Corinthians 15:14)

- ✓ Our belief in Christ would also be empty and meaningless
- ✓ Because our faith would be based on nothing more than a fairy tale, based on fiction, rather than reality.

C. Apostles were **False Witnesses**... (1 Corinthians 15:15)

- ✓ They swore that God had raised Jesus Christ from the dead
- ✓ They claimed to spend time with Jesus after the resurrection
- ✓ They either told the truth of what they witnessed or they were deliberate liars, frauds, deceivers

D: We are still in our **Sin**... (1 Corinthians 15:17)

- ✓ It would have been a liar that died on the cross
- ✓ No such person without Sin and unblemished could have gone through the suffering Christ did

E. Believers have **Perished** at death... (1 Corinthians 15:18)

- ✓ Their faith would have been placed on a false Messiah
- ✓ They would have no atonement for their sins
- ✓ Dying in their sins, they would have no hope at all

F. Christians are to be **pitied**... (1 Corinthians 15:19)

- ✓ Because we believe in a false Messiah
- ✓ Because our faith in him, makes us refrain from a life of worldly pleasure
- ✓ Because we face persecution and ridicule because of our faith or belief

1 Corinthians 15:14-19 (NASB)

¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Paul made it very clear that belief in Christ Resurrection was not Optional it is Foundational to the Christian faith.

It is the bedrock or thesis for Ministry, the Gospels likewise would hardly have been good news if they did not conclude with Christ's resurrection.

II. If Christ Has Been Raised

A. It verifies our **Justification** (Romans 4:24-25)

- ✓ Jesus claimed his Blood would be adequate
- ✓ By raising Jesus from the dead, God demonstrated his acceptance of him as a sacrifice of our Sins!

Romans 4:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴ But for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

B. It Demonstrates the **Power** Available to Christians (Ephesians 1:18-20)

- ✓ Power available at our conversion
- ✓ Power available to live the Christian Life

Ephesians 1:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,* ¹⁹ *and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might* ²⁰ *which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

C. It gives us **Hope** concerning our Own **Resurrection** (1 Peter 1:3)

- ✓ His resurrection gives us a living hope
- ✓ Especially concerning the resurrection of believers

1 Peter 1:3 (NASB)

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

D. It Demands our **Complete Loyalty** (Romans 14:9)

- ✓ He was raised and then exalted to become our Lord and savior
- ✓ Thus our Lives and service belong to him

Romans 14:9 (NASB)

⁹ *For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.*

The **IMPACT** of Christ's Resurrection should not go unfelt in our lives....

The believer should never lose sight of the significance of his resurrection.

- ✓ Do our lives demonstrate that we serve a **Risen Savior** or a baby in a Manger?
- ✓ Do we possess the Hope, Peace, and Strength that the reality and Power of his **Resurrection** gives to the Christians?

It verifies the **truthfulness** of what he taught...

- ✓ No one comes to the father except through him

John 14:6 (NASB) ⁶ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.*

- ✓ His **BLOOD** was shed for the remission of sins

Matthew 26:28 (NASB) ²⁸ *for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.*

- ✓ He came to offer **ABUNDANT** life

John 10:10 (NASB) ¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

- ✓ He shall **COME AGAIN**

John 14:3 (NASB) ³ *If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also.*

- ✓ There **WILL BE** a Resurrection of the dead

John 5:28-29 (NASB)

²⁸ *Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

As Vice President, George Bush represented the U.S, at the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Bush was deeply moved by a silent protest

carried out by Brezhnev's widow. She stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed.

Then just as the soldiers touched the lid, Brezhnev's wife performed an act of "**Great Courage**" and "**Hope**", a gesture that must surely rank as one of the most profound acts of Civil Disobedience ever committed.

She reached down and made the sign of the cross on her husband's chest.

There in the Citadel of secular atheistic power, the wife of the man who had run it all hoped that her husband was wrong.

She hoped that there was another life, and that that life was best represented by **Jesus** who died on the cross, and that the same Jesus might yet have mercy on her husband.

Hebrews 9:27 (NASB)

²⁷ And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

Isaiah 26:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

Daniel 12:2 (NASB)

² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

John 5:28-29 (NASB)

²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Revelation 20:11-15 (NASB)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.