



CHURCH ALIVE HOME BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 5

The Significance of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

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The Death and Resurrection of Christ are central to our faith as Christians - the means by which we have peace with God. It was not just the focus of the early church due to its central role in the Christian faith and in all of biblical history; It affirms the Cross as the ultimate symbol of redemption and the fulfillment of God's plan for humanity. *"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son"* (Galatians 4:4); Galatians 6:14, Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:20; Isaiah 53)

Many use the CROSS as a symbol of Christianity without fully appreciating its meaning. Let's take a look!

1. THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS

Hebrews 12:2 says, *"...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

The sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the Cross is far from something to be down-played or "cleaned up." The foundation of the Gospel stands on the significance of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus; without it man would be lost! Praise God, **HE IS OUR HOPE!** (1 Timothy 1:1).

"New Testament writers repeatedly referred to His cross, His death, and His blood, to emphasise different aspects of a work which will be the theme of heaven's praise throughout eternity (Revelation 5:12)." (Alasdair MacPherson)

The Gospel emphasises the following; **a) the DEATH of Christ**, which highlights His substitutionary sacrifice; **b) the BLOOD of Christ**, symbolising the forgiveness of sins; and **c) the CROSS of Christ**, which illustrates the shame of sin and the glory of redemption.

A. The DEATH of the Lord Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin.

From the very beginning, God warned Adam that disobedience would bring death (Genesis 2:17): *"...but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."* As punishment for sin, Adam and all his descendants would face both physical death and a spiritual separation from God, (known as the second death in Revelation 20:14).

For God's holiness and righteousness to be upheld, it was necessary for the Lord Jesus to pay the penalty for sin, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23 ESV). In death the Lord Jesus was not a mere victim of Roman crucifixion. He willingly laid down His life (John 10:18).

"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

"Surely He has borne our 'griefs and carried our 'sorrows; ...He was wounded' for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed..." (Isaiah 53:4,5)

In doing so, He paid the penalty that sin demanded. His death was substitutionary, meaning that He took the place of sinners and suffered the punishment we deserved. This act is referred to as **propitiation**; the appeasement of God's wrath, restoring those who believe to a right relationship with God: *"He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world"* (1 John 2:2 ESV).

B. The Blood of Christ *symbolizes life.*

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." (Lev. 17:11)

Without blood circulating through our veins, our bodies cannot live. That is why, throughout the Old Testament, blood sacrifices were required for the forgiveness of sins. (I.e. Abel's blood sacrifice was accepted by God, whereas Cain's bloodless offering was rejected (Genesis 4:3-5) Only through the shedding of blood could atonement be made for sin

The shedding of His blood symbolized the giving of His life in sacrifice. This is a theme seen throughout the Old Testament in animal sacrifices. However, **Christ's blood provides the basis of eternal forgiveness** for sin from an offended God, offered to anyone who believes in Him, *"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7 ESV).

C . The Cross of Christ – (Isaiah 53:12b says, *"He was numbered with the transgressors."*)

The Cross was more than just an instrument of death; it was symbolic of **curse and shame** *"...he who is hanged is cursed of God."* (Deuteronomy 21:22-23). Crucifixion was considered the most humiliating and barbaric form of execution – a public disgrace and suffering. Yet, the biblical writers gloried in the cross, *"God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Galatians 6:14). For Paul,; the cross signified that nothing we do could ever make us righteous before God. Through the cross, all the consequence of sin (including the curse, the shame and death itself) were dealt with, allowing believers to become something new: righteous and pure through Christ's death. Jesus *"endured the cross, despising the shame"* for us. (Heb. 12:2)

LIFE APPLICATION: **What does the Sacrifice of Jesus mean to you?** When I was asked, I came to the conclusion that I will never really fully understand the impact of the Cross on my life here on earth. I know that when I was born-again I fell in love with Jesus. And from that time on the Holy Spirit has been revealing key truths to me: My righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) There is nothing I can DO to save myself; without Jesus I am wretched and poor. (Rev. 3:17)

Let's sing this old hymn together..."When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Isaac Watts
(This says it all for me...)

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

LET'S PRAY: Father, I thank You that You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son to die on the Cross for me. Thank You for bearing my sin and shame and reaching out to me. Your spilled blood has washed away all my sin, cleansed me and made me whole. There are no words to express my gratitude except to say, I love You and to ask that You, by Your Holy Spirit help me to lay hold of all You have done for me. In Jesus Name I pray!

2. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."* (John 11:25)

The Resurrection of Jesus (*alongside His crucifixion*) is the central historical event, not only in the Christian faith, but in the whole history of the universe. Without the Cross there would be no resurrection. Without the Resurrection, there would be no Christianity. *"If Christ has not been raised,"* wrote the Apostle. Paul, *"then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:14)

After dying a violent death on a Roman cross on a Friday afternoon 33 A.D. Jesus of Nazareth came back to life and emerged from the tomb on Sunday morning and everything changed as a result.

Christ Rose from the Dead on the Third Day: The Apostle Paul wrote in Corinthians 15:3-8: *"... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that **He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,** ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, the twelve, and by over five hundred. ...⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."*

1Timothy 3:16 – *"God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory."*

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST:

1. The Risen Christ is our HOPE: Jesus' Resurrection proved that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross to atone for our sins. Paul made a direct connection between the Resurrection of Jesus and His death on the Cross to atone for our sins. God was fully satisfied with the sacrificial death of His Son. In Jesus' vindication we are also vindicated.

1 Corinthians 15:14-19: *"And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty...¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have ^[c]fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable."*

Romans 4:25 says, *"Now it was not written for his (speaking of Abraham) sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification."*

2. Christ Jesus in His Resurrection defeated death for all:

Acts 2:23,24 – *"Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you ^[c]have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."*

The phrase *"having loosed the pains of death"* sums up the core message of the resurrection, highlighting the transformative power of Jesus' victory over death. It is crucial that we grasp this truth. It serves as a foundation for Christian hope and the assurance of salvation for those who believe in Him.

1 Corinthians 15:20 – 28: *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming">*

Because Christ was raised from the dead all shall be made alive (1 Cor. 15:20-22). This is a source of comfort for all who have lost loved ones. I find comfort in Psalm of 16:8 *"I set the Lord ever before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved."* (David had a revelation of the resurrection). It was reassuring me that I have the hope of seeing our son again ...otherwise *our life and faith would be futile*" (v.17).

3. When Jesus rose again, that meant that His physical body came back to life. (Luke 24:36-43; John 21:10-14) He was a flesh and bone human being. Jesus came out of the tomb in a physical body. We can look to the future with confidence...*Read Romans 8:18-25: "...we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. "*

4. While we wait, the power that raised Jesus from the dead is already working within us. In Ephesians 1:19-21 - the Apostle Paul prayed that we might know "... *what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

5. I now have a Great High Priest seated at the right hand of God who ever lives to make intercession for me, my family & His church. It's personal to me! Because of the blood of Jesus, I can come boldly to His throne to receive mercy and find grace in time of need. He wants an intimate relationship with me! That is why He endured the Cross! I have had to learn that I don't have to try and earn His approval; it's by His grace!! He loves me! (Hebrews 12:2; Ephesians 1:19-22)

6. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was evidence that Jesus had been exalted to the right hand of the Father and had received from the Father the Promise of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). I can rely upon Him for those everyday things & to lead me, to teach me, convict me, how to pray. *More on this in another lesson...*

LIFE APPLICATION: **Jesus Christ's resurrection applies to my life here and now.** The same power that raised Christ from the dead is working in me at all times (Romans 8:11)! My first resurrection experience was when I was born again – I was filled with joy, love for Jesus and for His Word. Little by little His resurrection power has been setting me free from things that were keeping me in bondage (Exodus 23:30) and bringing physical healing and deliverance in our family.

As we trust in Jesus we are united with Him in faith. There is a connection between happened to Jesus and what happens to us. Jesus didn't just rise and die, **IN HIM WE DIED WITH HIM AND WE ROSE WITH HIM!** It's not just symbolic! **WE HAVE BEEN SPIRITUALLY RAISED WITH CHRIST.** We have been given the spiritual life. (Read Ephesians 3 and Colossians 3) We are told that since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts and minds on things above. So, as people who have been given spiritual life in Jesus we are to look at things from God's perspective. We are to live as risen people. We are to ***reckon ourselves dead to sin*** and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord! (Romans 6:3-11) His grace is powerfully at work in us! (Acts 4:33)

*Romans 6:3-11: " We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection... For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, ***reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.****

DECLARE THE VICTORY OF JESUS OVER YOUR LIFE...

*I declare... the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in me, renewing me daily. **It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me!** I am alive in Christ! Thank You, Father! Let that resurrection power that Jesus won for me, flow in me and through me, giving me hope, joy, peace and strength. Thank You for Your love and grace You have freely given me.*

I often pray this prayer – ***"Continue to work in me to will and to do of your good pleasure!*** (Phil. 2:13)

As we close today, let's exalt the Lord...

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." - (1 Peter 1:3)