

GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS

14. Work of Christ (Part 4)



An Introduction

In our previous study we looked at different illustrations given in the Scriptures that help us understand the significance of the death of Christ. We will now continue looking at the life and of Christ, by learning about his resurrection and ascension.

RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

The resurrection wasn't just something 'spiritual', it was an actual bodily resurrection that took place at a moment in history. Without the resurrection, there would be no gospel. 1 Corinthians 15:4-8, 12-20

1. Evidence for the Resurrection

- Testimony of the Scriptures and the Apostles. The apostle's teaching and preaching is based on this reality. Acts 1:22, 2:24, 4:33
- The resurrection appearances: Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9), the women (Matthew 28:8-9), Peter (Luke 24:34), disciples in the upper room (John 20:19, 26), disciples on the Emmaus Road (Luke 24:13-15), James and Paul (1 Corinthians 15:7-8), the five hundred (1 Corinthians 15:6), disciples as they were fishing. John 21:1
- The amazing growth of the church.
- Although the Pharisees tried to disprove claims, they couldn't.
- Only the resurrection can explain the change in Christian's lives and power over sin.
- The witness of the Holy Spirit through the ages.
- Our personal testimonies.

2. Importance of the Resurrection

- It is a fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies and of Christ himself. Matthew 16:21, 20:19, Mark 9:9, 14:28, Luke 24:44-46, Acts 13:34-35
- If Christ had not risen it would have proved that his claims were not true, but they were vindicated by his resurrection. Matthew 26:63-66, 27:63-66
- It is the final proof of his deity and that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. Acts 2:24, 13:33-35, Romans 1:4
- It proves that Satan and evil have been defeated. Ephesians 4:8
- Through the resurrection Christ became Head of the Church and universal Lord (Philippians 2:9-11), first-born from the dead (Revelation 1:5, 17, 18), and Head of a new race.
- The resurrection gives us assurance that: we receive new life (1 Peter 1:3), that the dead will be raised (1 Corinthians 15:20), that we will have a new body (Philippians 3:21) and that the wicked will be judged. Acts 17:31
- It also means that Christ can be known. Acts 9:1-6, Philippians 3:10



*Can a person truly be a Christian if they don't believe in Christ's bodily resurrection?
See 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17*

What hinders people believing in the resurrection do you think?

ASCENSION OF CHRIST

Forty days after Christ rose from the dead, he went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives where he visibly ascended.

- This was a fulfilment of prophecy in the Old Testament and given by Christ himself. John 6:62, Acts 2:32-36
- It was an act of God's power. Ephesians 1:19-22
- It was a necessary completion of the death and resurrection of Christ, proving God's full acceptance of his sacrifice. Hebrews 10:11-14
- He ascended to receive gifts promised for his church (Ephesians 4:9), to send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7) and to prepare a place for us. John 14:2
- Because of the ascension we are already seated with Christ in Heavenly places.

PRESENT MINISTRY OF CHRIST - What is Christ doing now?

Through the ascension Christ became Lord (Matthew 28:18) and is seated at the right hand of God. (Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3) He has power over angels and all of Heaven and earth. Ephesians 1:21-22, Colossians 1:16-18.

At this present time Christ is:-

- Our permanent priest. Hebrews 7:24
- Interceding on our behalf to the Father. Romans 8:34, Hebrews 9:24
- Our advocate with the Father. 1 John 2:1
- Ruling and protecting the Church (Ephesians 1:22-23), helping those in need (Hebrews 4:15) and giving them power. John 14:12
- Waiting for the time of final victory. Acts 2:34-35
- Preparing to come again in the same way he left. Acts 1:11
- Preparing to come as Judge. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10



What difference should it make to our lives, knowing that Christ has risen and is seated at the right hand of God the Father?



He alone is worthy of our worship. Let's truly make him Lord of our lives.