

Greetings:

The study that Pastor Pat brings on Sunday mornings is a reflection of the study for that week. It represents a lot of research. Not all of what he has prepared is communicated. In an attempt to continue the learning process, he is making available his study notes to the congregation.

These notes are edited, but not “book” ready. To the critical eye, mistakes can possibly be found. Therefore, he asks that you take the material with humility, teach-ability, and charity.

Enjoy and if you should have any questions or corrections, please do not hesitate to email him at pastorpat@waukeshabile.org.

Date: April 1, 2018

Sermon Title: **Five reasons why believing the resurrection of Jesus is an essential and necessary part of the Christian Faith that in its absence one cannot be saved from sin and death and for joy and glory.**
[the title is longer than the study]

Sermon Series: The Theology of Rest

Text: Matthew 28:1-10

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Waukesha Bible Church is a family of families seeking to live in **the Storyline of the Bible**. She is determined by design to have a **God-centered, Christ-exalting worship; a Word-centered teaching** focused on personal **discipleship** through intentional and systematic instruction; a **Global-impacting mission** that resolves to be a **church planting church**; and a **Grace-based fellowship** where disciples are invited to live under a **reigning grace** characterized by a **Gospel-driven sanctification** that celebrates a divine **monergism** to the Christian life.

Date: April 1, 2018 Easter Sunday
Title: Five reasons why believing the resurrection of Jesus is an essential and necessary part of the Christian Faith that in its absence one cannot be saved from sin and death and for joy and glory. [the title is longer than the study]
Text: Matthew 28:1-10
Theme: The resurrection of Jesus is so essential and necessary that in its absence one cannot be saved.

Introduction:

It is of interest to know that there have always been those who reject a physical and bodily resurrection from the dead.

Jesus confronted such a group in the Sadducees (Matt. 22:23ff; Mark 12:18ff; Luke 20:27ff).

- ²³ “The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, . . . ²⁸ Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? . . . for they all had her. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. ³¹ But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying...” (Matt. 22:23, 28-31).

Paul, likewise confronted this same group in his defense of Christ (Acts 23:6ff).

- ⁶ “But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: . . . of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. ⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both” (Acts 23:6-8).

“The refusal to believe in the resurrection was considered a very important aspect of Sadducee thought.”¹

Even beyond the Sadducees you have the Epicureans and the Stoics (Acts 17:18, 32). “The two schools were at this time the great representatives of Greek thought.”² “In St Paul’s day these two systems of philosophy were most prominent throughout the Roman world, and were regarded as conflicting though in many points they bear a strong likeness to one another. Both were the result of a desire to find some better principle for the guidance of man’s moral nature than could be found in the so-called religious systems of Greece and Rome.”³

- ¹⁸ Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoics, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? . . . other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. . . . ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, **in that he hath raised him from the dead.** ³² And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter” (Acts 17:18, 31-32).

Yet it is the resurrection in general and that of our Lord in particular that causes the Christian faith to be what it is.

THE BIG PICTURE:

“Resurrection is the central theme in Christianity. The New Testament goes out of its way to make this clear. Just as Christ rose from the dead in a physical body to inaugurate the new creation, so Christians will rise from the dead to restored bodies in the renewed world. I embrace this as truth as the center of the Christian hope.”⁴

Confessing Jesus as the risen Christ is part of the Christian core constituting the object of one’s faith. Apart from this affirmation, there is no Christian faith.

- “But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:24).
- “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Rom. 10:9).

Luke writes, “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive” (Acts 1:1-3). And in the account of Paul’s defense before King Agrippa II, we read, “‘But I have had God’s help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen – that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.’ At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. ‘You are out of your mind, Paul!’ he shouted. ‘Your great learning is driving you insane.’ ‘I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable”” (Acts 26:22-25).

The New Testament record affirms their confidence in our Lord’s resurrection from the dead and His aliveness to others.

“We’re saved by believing in Jesus, but what Jesus is that? One who was just a great moral teacher? One who was just a prophet? One who was willing to die for what he believed in? Or one who is defined by the content of the gospel? I believe it’s the latter. Which gospel and which Jesus one believes in really, really matters. That’s clear from the following passages:

- “For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.” (2 Cor. 11:4)
- “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. (Gal. 1:8-9)

Our belief in Christ is not properly focused, and therefore unable to save, without a clear understanding of Christ’s death for our sins, and his resurrection on the third day.”⁵

“N.T. Wright was asked an interesting question about resurrection and Christian faith: **You’ve argued strongly that Jesus physically rose from the dead as a historical event. Do you have to believe this teaching in order to be a Christian?** Notice, that even the most vigorous defender of orthodox belief in resurrection isn’t quite ready to throw out everyone who struggles with the idea of a literal physical resurrection. At the same time, there is a line that is eventually crossed when it is denied ‘outright.’ Read his nuanced answer: Anyone who is in any sense a Christian cannot with any consistency believe that Jesus stayed dead. I have friends and colleagues who I know to be praying Christians who worship regularly and lead lives of practical Christian love and service but who really struggle with the bodily resurrection. I would say that looks like a muddled Christian who needs to be put straight. Of course some of them would say exactly that about me! But if you say Jesus died and nothing happened but the disciples had some interesting ideas, then you have cut off the branch on which all classic Christianity is sitting. This generation needs to wake up, smell the coffee and realize serious Christianity begins when Jesus comes out of the tomb on Easter morning. This is not a nice optional extra for those who like believing in funny things.”⁶

Although some will deny assigning such weight to such a truth, let us consider five reasons why believing the resurrection of Jesus is an essential and necessary part of the Christian Faith that in its absence one cannot be saved from sin and death and for joy and glory.

Outline:

- I. The “Gospel” Concerning The Messiah Is Clearly Spoken Of By The Old Testament.
 - ²⁴“Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.’ ²⁵ And He said to them, ‘O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ **Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?**’ ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures” (Luke 24:24-27).
 - ⁴² “They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; ⁴³ and He took it and ate it before them. ⁴⁴ Now He said to them, ‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, ‘**Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,**’ ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:42-49).
 - “For as yet **they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead**” (John 20:9).
 - “**That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead,** and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles” (Acts 26:23).

We do not have time to prove the truthfulness of this observation, but let us listen in as Bible Scholar Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., in his article *Jesus in the Old Testament*, concludes,

“It is only right that we should find that Jesus was both actually present in the Old Testament and accurately predicted, and that he would come first as our Savior, and then in a later second coming, would appear as the King supreme over all the earth. Such an unusual state of affairs is possible because he was, he is and he is the One to come.”⁷

Let us consider our second reason why believing the resurrection of Jesus is an essential and necessary part of the Christian Faith that in its absence one cannot be saved from sin and death and for joy and glory.

II. Jesus Foretold His Own Resurrection From The Grave.

Caesarea Philippi

- “From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and **be raised up on the third day**” (Matt. 16:21).

Mt of Transfiguration

- ⁹ “And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, **till the Son of man were risen from the dead**.¹⁰ And they kept that saying with themselves, **questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean**” (Mark 9:9, 10; cf. Matt. 17:9)
- “And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and **the third day he shall rise again**” (Matt. 20:19).

“The resurrection was predicted beforehand by Jesus. The fact that He would rise from the dead was central to Jesus' ministry and message. The resurrection must not be seen as an isolated event in the life of Christ. As one reads the four gospels, they are struck by the fact that Jesus predicted, over and over again, His betrayal, death, and resurrection. The first time we find him speaking about being raised from the dead was at the beginning of his ministry. When asked for a sign he gave them the sign of the temple - which was figurative for his body. On another occasion, when asked for a sign, he gave them the sign of Jonah. As Jonah was three days in the belly of the sea creature so Jesus will be three days in the earth. He also privately told his disciples the details about his death and resurrection. Jesus made public statements about his resurrection. This caused the religious leaders to request a guard at his tomb. There would be no need for a guard unless he had predicted that he would come back from the dead. Therefore the evidence is clear - Jesus predicted his resurrection.”⁸

Let us consider our third reason why believing the resurrection of Jesus is an essential and necessary part of the Christian Faith that in its absence one cannot be saved from sin and death and for joy and glory.

III. The Four Gospel Writers Present Jesus As Rising From The Dead

- ⁶ “**He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay**.⁷ And go quickly, and tell his disciples **that he is risen from the dead**; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you” (Matt. 28:6, 7).

- “And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, **which was crucified: he is risen;** he is not here: behold the place where they laid him” (Mark 16:6).
- ⁶ **“He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, ⁷ Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.** . . . ¹² Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass. . . . ³³ And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, ³⁴ Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. . . . ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and **thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day**” (Luke 24:6, 7, 12, 33, 34, 46).
- “This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, **after that he was risen from the dead**” (John 21:14).

The Bible has four books dedicated to describing Jesus’ earthly life and ministry. As anyone familiar with the Bible would know, these books are the Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. What’s amazing is how much the Gospels focus on the last week of Jesus’ final week. A third of the Gospels is devoted to it. The break down according to each of the Gospels:

- A third of Matthew, from Matthew 21-28
- A third of Mark, from Mark 11-16
- A quarter of Luke, from Luke 19-24
- Nearly half of John, from John 12-20

The Gospel of John is the most concentrated upon the last week of Jesus. Furthermore nearly a third of the Gospel of John is dedicated to one day, from John 13-19. There are a total of 89 chapters from all four Gospels. Of those chapters 29 is on the final week. Again we see that it is a third of the Gospels. “The Gospels are essentially passion narratives with extended introductions.”⁹

Let us consider our fourth reason why believing the resurrection of Jesus is an essential and necessary part of the Christian Faith that in its absence one cannot be saved from sin and death and for joy and glory.

IV. The Resurrection Of Jesus Is Part Of The Apostolic Preaching

“All the apostles recognized fully the significance of Jesus’ resurrection, and because of that, His resurrection became the focal point of their preaching.”¹⁰

“The book of Acts shows a dramatic change in the disciples. No more questions, no more doubts, no more arguing among themselves. They boldly preached with confidence to thousands of people in the temple, defying the religious leaders, risking their lives because they were so zealous for the message. What turned the fishermen into faith-filled preachers? Two things: they were convinced that Jesus was alive, and that they were given the same power that Jesus had – the Holy Spirit helped them understand and gave them courage. The Messiah was alive, and his message was true: The time had come. The kingdom of God had come! Turn to God, and believe the wonderful news! Jesus told them to preach, and so they preached!”¹¹

- ³⁰ “Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; ³¹ He seeing this before spake of **the resurrection of Christ**, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. ³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses” (Acts 2:30-32).
- “And killed the Prince of life, **whom God hath raised from the dead**; whereof we are witnesses” (Acts 3:15).
- “Being grieved that they taught the people, and **preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead**” (Acts 4:2).
- “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole” (Acts 4:10).
- “And **with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus**: and great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:33).
- “**The God of our fathers raised up Jesus**, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree” (Acts 5:30).
- “**Him God raised up the third day**, and shewed him openly” (Acts 10:40).
- “But **God raised him from the dead**” (Acts 13:30).
- “But he, **whom God raised again**, saw no corruption” (Acts 13:37).
- ³³ “**God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again**; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. ³⁴ **And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption**, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David” (Acts 13:33, 34).
- “Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, **and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ**” (Acts 17:3).

Let us consider our final reason why believing the resurrection of Jesus is an essential and necessary part of the Christian Faith that in its absence one cannot be saved from sin and death and for joy and glory.

V. In its absence, His people have no hope of future joy

- ¹² “Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: ¹⁴ And **if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain**. ¹⁵ Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. ¹⁶ For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: ¹⁷ And **if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins**” (1 Cor. 15:12-17).

John MacArthur, in commenting on this text notes, “The resurrection has massive implications. Everybody dies. But only One had the power to raise Himself from the dead. It is obvious to the enemy of our souls that the resurrection is critical. It is the linchpin that holds everything together. It is the cornerstone without which the building collapses. And that is why I think the resurrection is often mocked, scorned, denied, and sometimes just ignored, as if it were not of

such importance to warrant a deep consideration. But the resurrection of Jesus Christ is absolutely critical.”¹²

It is for these five reasons we believe confessing the resurrection of Jesus is an essential and necessary part of the Christian Faith and that in its absence one cannot be saved from sin and death and for joy and glory.

Shepherding the Sheep: (What is the NEXT STEP?)

1. Perhaps today the resurrection of Jesus is something you have affirmed with your mind, but not your heart/emotion. Friend, today we affirm with our mind and emotion that Jesus is risen from the dead.
2. Perhaps you claim to be a Christian but reject His physical/bodily resurrection from the grave. Friend, our text says you cannot claim such a dichotomy between the resurrection of Jesus and His offer of salvation from sin and death.
3. Today, more than ever you and I need to confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead. To do so results in us being saved.

¹ <http://www.livius.org/articles/people/saducees/>

² Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers on Acts 17:18.

³ Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges on Acts 17:18.

⁴ <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/thepangeablog/2012/08/30/do-you-have-to-believe-in-resurrection/>

⁵ <https://barrywallace.wordpress.com/2009/04/08/is-it-necessary-to-believe-in-the-resurrection-of-jesus-to-be-saved/>

⁶ <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/thepangeablog/2012/08/30/do-you-have-to-believe-in-resurrection/>

⁷ <http://www.gordonconwell.edu/resources/Jesus-in-the-Old-Testament.cfm>

⁸ https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_812.cfm

⁹ <https://veritasdomain.wordpress.com/2017/04/09/are-you-aware-of-the-4-gospels-focus-on-the-last-week-of-jesus-life/>

¹⁰ <http://christinprophecy.org/articles/the-resurrection-of-jesus/>

¹¹ <https://www.gci.org/gospel/badpeople2>

¹² <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-284/what-if-christ-didnt-rise>