

# ***The Resurrection of Christ***

April 12, 2020 (Easter)

*The first man was of the earth, made of dust; **the second Man is the Lord from heaven.** <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. <sup>49</sup> And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of **the heavenly Man.** (Reference John 3:5-7)*

## Our Final Victory

<sup>50</sup> *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (Reference 1 John 3:2-3) <sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must **put on incorruption**, and this mortal must **put on immortality.** <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has **put on incorruption**, and this mortal has **put on immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” – 1 Corinthians 15:47-54 NKJV*

## ***(The Resurrection of Christ and of the Church)***

**INTRODUCTION:** In this passage, Jesus takes us from something that is known (our earthly forefather), to something unknown. We know something about our ethnic heritage. We even understand something about the spiritual kingdom of Christ and the new birth experience. But as Jesus so often did, he takes us from the familiar, from the comfortable, from the things we already know, and he leads us into a deeper truth – something that we don't feel comfortable with; something that we do not know! In 1 Corinthians 15:51 Paul called this a “mystery”. We have all been born and most of us have been baptized in Jesus Name and we have received the Holy Ghost, but none of us have resurrected yet!

## **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**\*So let's start with what we know:** As we understand something about the natural birth and something about the spiritual re-birth, we can even understand something about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**\*The resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of Christian faith.** If the resurrection of Jesus had NOT taken place, Peter, Paul, James, Andrew, Thomas, Philip, Nathaniel, Matthew, and all of them would have known that Christianity was not true. None of them would have boldly proclaimed a lie! None of them would have spilled their blood and been martyred for a dead faith!

**\* A few might die for a mistaken faith or an ideology that is not true.** Someone might die for radical Islam or some other faith if they are deluded and deceived about their cause. People can be mistaken about their faith. But eleven of the twelve apostles could not be mistaken. They

died as martyrs because they actually had first-hand knowledge of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**\*The existence of the church is a direct result of the resurrection.** How could 3,000 Jews be converted to Christianity in one day?

**\*They were in unique positions because they actually met the resurrected Savior.** Nobody dies for a lie if they know the truth, and the witnesses of Christ knew the resurrection took place because they knew him!

**(John's witness)** *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—<sup>2</sup> the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—<sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, - 1 John 1:1-3 NKJV*

**\*The apostles and the devout women were not hallucinating.** They were not tripping out on drugs, believing a common myth, or deluded by a fables. This was not a religious philosophy that came about decades after the crucifixion. The chief priests and Pharisees would have loved to produce the dead body of Jesus Christ, but they could not! As John said, they handled Jesus, talked with Jesus and bore witness to a resurrected Savior!

**(Peter's witness)** *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. – 2 Peter 1:16 NKJV*

**(Paul's witness)** *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.<sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. - 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 NKJV*

**(Witness of Christ)** *Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” – Luke 24:39 NKJV*

## **THE MYSTERY**

**\*1 Corinthians 15 takes us from things that are known and accepted among us, and leads us to a mystery:** The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our resurrection too! (*Praise God!*).

**\*Unbelievers doubt our resurrection, as they doubt Christ's resurrection.** They believe that nothing happens after death! Dust to dust and ashes to ashes. **They believe we go back to the earth because the earth is all they know.**

**“Knock me on my head, and where then, is my soul?” – Napoleon** (In other words, if I'm unconscious, then so is my soul. If I'm dead, then maybe my soul is dead too)

One question more than all others  
From thoughtful minds reply  
It is breathed from stall and pall,  
What fate awaits us when we die? – Anonymous

\*Jesus spoke about the mystery of his resurrection and of ours too in John 14.

**KNOWING JESUS. Read John 14:1-9 and comment**

*In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And 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. <sup>4</sup> And where I go you know, and the way you know."*

<sup>5</sup> **Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"**

<sup>6</sup> **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. – John 14:2-6 NKJV**

*"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup> At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. – John 14:19-21 NKJV*

**\*Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Christ because God Himself is the Father of Christ.** That should be not mystery to us, but to some people is a mystery.

*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: 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. – 1 Timothy 3:16 NKJV*

**\*HOW ARE WE IN CHRIST AND HOW IS JESUS IN US?**

**We are IN Christ, when we put him on through water baptism.**

*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. – Galatians 3:27 NKJV*

**Jesus is IN US when we receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. We receive the Spirit of Christ inside of us.**

*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. – Romans 8:11 NKJV*

## WE PUT ON CHRIST THROUGH THE NEW BIRTH

**\*As a newborn infant is dependent upon her mother, and as the grapes on a vine die and become raisins without the vine, so we are dependent upon the Spirit and the life of the Lord Jesus.**

\*We “put him on” and take on his likeness!

*Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. – John 15:4 NKJV*

**\*Do you remember Steven and Ellen Keefer, who visited us in February? Ellen offered Stephen something, but Stephen had to reach out his hand and receive it.** She offered something, but he had to claim it and grasp it. The old King James Bible would say that we have to apprehend it.

*Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. – Romans 13:13-14 NKJV*

*... Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. – Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV*

**\*Take off the old nature and put on the new.** Put off sin and put on righteousness. **Put off the flesh and put on the Spirit.** Put off your doubts, fear, and anger. **Put on faith, hope, and peace.** Put off Adam and put on Jesus. **Put off death and put on life.** Put off sin and put on righteousness. **Put off yourself and put on Christ!**

**\*Salvation and the new birth experience takes place within just a few minutes time.** But learning to live this new life never ends.

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; - Ephesians 4:11-13 NKJV*

**THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY.** When we give ourselves over to the Spirit of Christ, when his will dominates ours, when Jesus is truly in us and when we are in him, then we have solved the mystery!

*For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." – **1 Corinthians 15:53-54 NKJV***