

Christ, Resurrected
Matthew 28:1-15

March 31, 2024

Grace Bible Church

CHRIST IS RESURRECTED. THE GRAVE IS EMPTY. LIFE IS FULL.

"WHAT IS THE NECESSARY EXPRESSION THAT CHRIST HAS PAID THE PENALTY OF SIN FULLY? HE MUST RISE FROM THE DEAD. IF HE REMAINS IN A GRAVE DEAD, THEN THE PENALTY OF SIN IS STILL BEING PAID, AND THUS ITS PAYMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE FULLY. AND WHAT ABOUT SIN'S POWER? IF CHRIST HAS 'DIED FOR OUR SIN,' AND SIN'S GREATEST POWER IS DEATH, THEN WHAT IS THE NECESSARY EXPRESSION THAT CHRIST HAS CONQUERED THE POWER OF SIN COMPLETELY AND DECISIVELY? HE MUST RISE FROM THE DEAD."

— *BRUCE A. WARE,*
THE MAN CHRIST JESUS.

1. The Story of the Resurrection (vv. 1-10)

"THERE CAN BE NO SALVATION FROM SIN UNLESS THERE IS A LIVING SAVIOUR: THIS EXPLAINS THE EMPHASIS [OF THE EPISTLES] ON THE RESURRECTION. BUT THE LIVING ONE CAN BE A SAVIOUR ONLY BECAUSE HE HAS DIED: THIS EXPLAINS THE EMPHASIS LAID ON THE CROSS. THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVES IN A LIVING LORD, OR HE COULD NOT BELIEVE AT ALL; BUT HE BELIEVES IN A LIVING LORD WHO DIED AN ATONING DEATH, FOR NO OTHER CAN HOLD THE FAITH OF A SOUL UNDER THE DOOM OF SIN."

— *JAMES DENNEY,*
THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

2. The Denial of the Resurrection (vv. 11-15)

"MEN AND WOMEN DISBELIEVE THE EASTER STORY NOT BECAUSE OF THE EVIDENCE BUT IN SPITE OF IT. IT IS NOT THAT THEY WEIGH THE EVIDENCE WITH OPEN MINDS, ASSESS ITS RELEVANCE AND COGENCY AND FINALLY DECIDE THAT IT IS SUSPECT OR INADEQUATE. INSTEAD, THEY START WITH THE A PRIORI CONVICTION THAT THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST WOULD CONSTITUTE SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EVENT THAT IT COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED OR BELIEVED WITHOUT SCIENTIFIC DEMONSTRATION OF AN IRREFUTABLE NATURE. BUT IT IS IDLE TO DEMAND PROOF OF THIS SORT FOR ANY EVENT IN HISTORY. HISTORICAL EVIDENCE, FROM ITS VERY NATURE, CAN NEVER AMOUNT TO MORE THAN A VERY HIGH DEGREE OF PROBABILITY."

— J. N. D. ANDERSON.

3. The Implications of the Resurrection (vv. 5-7)

✓ _____ (v. 6)

✓ _____ (v. 6)

✓ _____ (v. 7)

✓ _____ (v. 7)

✓ _____ (vv. 5, 10).

"ALL THE REFERENCES TO THE EMPTY TOMB COME IN THE GOSPELS, WHICH WERE WRITTEN FOR CHRISTIANS WHO WANTED TO KNOW THE FACTS. IN THE PUBLIC PREACHING, TO THOSE WHO WERE NOT YET CONVINCED, AS RECORDED IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, THERE WAS AN INSISTENT EMPHASIS ON THE RESURRECTION, BUT NOT A SINGLE REFERENCE TO THE TOMB. FOR THIS I CAN SEE ONLY ONE EXPLANATION. THERE WAS NO POINT IN SPEAKING OF THE EMPTY TOMB, FOR EVERYONE — FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE — KNEW THAT IT WAS EMPTY. THE ONLY POINTS WORTH ARGUING ABOUT WERE WHY IT WAS EMPTY, AND WHAT ITS EMPTINESS PROVED."

— J. N. D. ANDERSON.

By the grace of God, one thing I can do this week in response to this sermon is: