

Importance of the Resurrection – Part 1

Before we get started on today's lesson, listen to something Robby Dean said:

“Everything in our relationship with God is mediated through written documentation. We aren't saved because we have a relationship with Jesus. Judas had a relationship with Jesus and he wasn't saved. Everything that we have in our relationship to God is ultimately grounded in a written, legal document.”

It has been said that Israel has a written document identifying the land of Israel. There is a legal covenant or contract between God and the descendants of Israel.

What Robby Dean says, is that believers in the Church Age have a written document listing the one requirement for salvation (faith). God's response to this faith establishes the spiritual connection/relationship with God. The important point being made here is that it is documented. It is written down. It is “Scripture.”

This Resurrection Sunday lesson makes the case for the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is an offshoot of our study in Romans where we encountered the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This lesson is centered on 1 Corinthians chapter 15. As Robby Dean says:

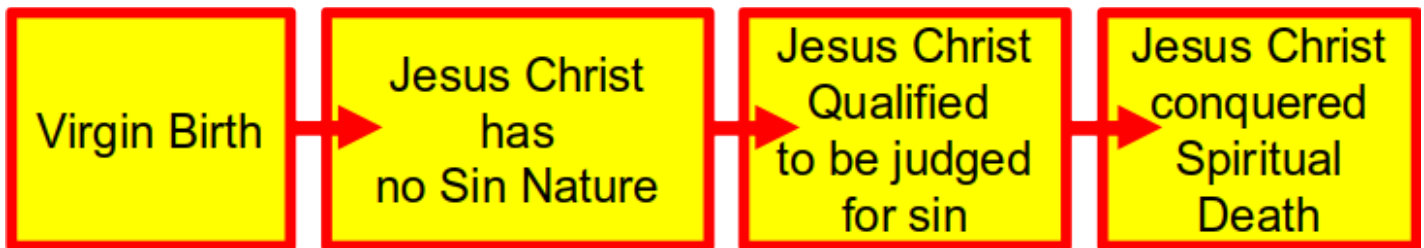
“There are two crucial doctrines on which everything in Christianity depends: the virgin birth and the resurrection. If either of these two is lost then our faith is in vain, as Paul says in this chapter; it is meaningless. Christianity, unlike all of the other world religions, is not founded on some philosophy, it is founded on a person and what that person did in

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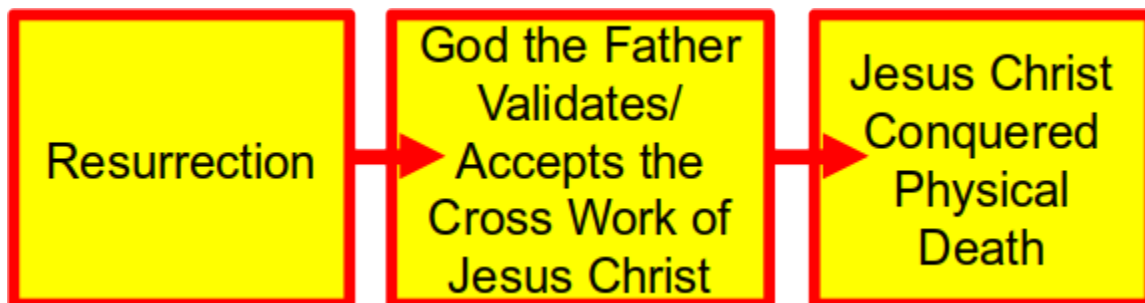
space-time history. If we remove the virgin birth or the resurrection we have no Christian faith.¹”

“It is in the resurrection that Jesus Christ conquers the greatest consequence of sin. The sin penalty is spiritual death; the greatest consequences of that, the most obvious consequence of that in our life, is physical death. That is conquered and by conquering physical death the resurrection is also a sign of God's acceptance of Christ's spiritual sacrifice on the cross and of the Father validating Christ's work in salvation.²”

I have illustrated my understanding of these two concepts in the following graphics.



Implication of the Virgin Birth



Implication of the Resurrection

¹ <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/1-corinthians-menuitem/message/2002-1stcorinthians-094/read>

² <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/1-corinthians-menuitem/message/2002-1stcorinthians-094/read>

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1 Corinthians 15:1-4

“1 Corinthians 15 is the chapter in the New Testament about the resurrection. The emphasis in this chapter is on the centrality of resurrection to Christianity. The first two verses are an introduction: that resurrection is an empirical reason for Christianity, otherwise our faith would have no real purpose. Verses 3-19 deal with the historical realities of the resurrection. Verses 20-28 talk about the impact of the resurrection on the angelic conflict and human history. Verses 29-34, the implications of Christ's resurrection. Verses 35-58 answer questions regarding the resurrection.³”

In outline format, 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 (Robby Dean)

1. Introduction: Empirical Reason for Christianity (1-2)
2. Historical Realities of the Resurrection (3-19)
3. Impact of the Resurrection on the Angelic Conflict and Human History (20-28)
4. Implication of Christ's Resurrection (29-34)
5. Questions Regarding the Resurrection (35-58)

Outline of 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 (Andy Woods):

Six Sections of 1 Corinthians Chapter 15

1. Resurrection = the heart of the Gospel (1-11)
2. Seven disastrous consequences if no resurrection (12-19)
3. Two benefits of the resurrection (20-28)
4. Two more consequences if there is no resurrection (29-34)
5. The resurrection body (35-49)
6. The Rapture (50-58)

You see, an outline, especially of 1 Corinthians will look differently to different pastors. D.A. Carson once said something to the effect that an

³ <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/1-corinthians-menuitem/message/2002-1stcorinthians-094/read>

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outline says more about the author of the outline than of the author of the text being outlined.

But in all honesty, 1 Corinthians contains a diverse set of topics. Paul is addressing specific issues found in the Corinthian church. He is more pastor-teacher here than theologian as in Romans.

1 Corinthians 15:1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

Now. This is a particle that serves to break with the previous text. By translating it as “now” may lead one to think that the following present tense is action in the present time. But now can be used in English to separate what follows from what was previously said. The other verbs in the sentence are all aorist. The King James Version translates it as “moreover.” Or “Now, a new topic.”

I make known. Present active indicative. Per Robby Dean, this is not used like a typical present tense. It is not that “I am continuously making known.” This is called a historical present. He explains, “This is what is called a historic present where the present tense is used to describe an event which occurred previously as though it was taking place in the present to dramatize the event or the reality.⁴”

This meshes with the other verbs in the sentence which are in the aorist tense:

that which I preached to you (aorist middle indicative)

what you received (aorist active indicative)

in which you stand (perfect active indicative)

4 <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/1-corinthians-menuitem/message/2002-1stcorinthians-095/read>

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Also, this word is first in the sentence, causing this to be emphasized. So it is emphasized by being an “historic” present as well as being the first verb in a new subject. Paul makes known information about salvation. Whether they understand it and believe it is up to them just as it is up to you. Volition.

Gospel. Literally, this is “good news.” As we saw in our study of Romans, this term, gospel, comes from Old English and means “good news” just like the Greek word. I repeat, this covers salvation from justification (phase 1) through sanctification (phase 2) and glorification (phase 3).

I preached. (aorist middle indicative) This is a verb based upon the same root at the word for gospel. It can be translated as “to announce good news.” So this is a way of repeating “good news” to emphasize it.

You received...you stand. (aorist active indicative/perfect active indicative) There is a dynamic here which continues in verse 12. I like to think that for those believers who were very positive toward Paul’s teaching, that they didn’t just “receive” the information but “grabbed” it. I have seen new believers who were eager to know about Jesus Christ and salvation and would stay up late at night studying. And then sadly watch as believers become enmeshed in daily life and abandon study of the Bible. How did they receive the good news preached? Begrudgingly? or eagerly?

Look at the progression of these verbs:

I made known → I preached → You received → You stand → You are saved (v2)

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1 Corinthians 15:2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

You are saved. The good news contains the information needed to be saved. This is in the middle or passive voice (same word in the Greek). Salvation is something we receive. Part of that salvation are the 33-34 or more things we receive at the point of salvation. But salvation is an ongoing processes. You were saved at the point of believing (Phase 1), you are being saved by walking in faith (Phase 2) and you will receive ultimate sanctification in eternity (Phase 3). This verb is in the present tense. This plus the context indicates he is talking about Phase 2/ Sanctification.

Here is an expanded explanation by Robby Dean:

“1 Corinthians 15:2 "by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain." "Saved" is the verb sozo [σωζω], present passive indicative, second person plural, meaning to deliver, to save or to heal. This is a present tense, the continuous action is ongoing. He is not talking about their past justification, he is talking about their present salvation. SOZO is used in three senses, three stages of salvation. Phase one is really justification, when we put out faith alone in Christ alone. Christ's perfect righteousness is imputed to us and when God the Father sees that perfect righteousness He declares us to be just. We also speak of that as being saved but more technically that is justification. The second sense in which we use the word "saved" has to do with the spiritual life. The third sense has to do with future salvation and glorification. Phase one we refer to as positional sanctification but that is not what we are talking about in 1 Corinthians 15, which is talking about phase two, progressive sanctification, our ongoing spiritual life. Then there is phase three,

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ultimate sanctification. Another way we express this is that at phase one justification we are freed from the penalty of sin, saved from the penalty of sin. At that instant we are regenerated and given new life. The penalty for sin was spiritual death. But in phase two, the spiritual life, we are freed or saved from the power of sin—ongoing salvation, we are being saved every day. Every day that we walk by means of the Holy Spirit, every day that we abide in Christ, every day that we are growing spiritually and applying the Word we are being saved. Then there is phase three salvation where we are saved from the presence of the sin nature.⁵

Andy Woods among many other pastors, has a useful slide that illustrates this principle.

Phase	Justification	<u>Sanctification</u>	Glorification
Tense	Past	<u>Present</u>	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	<u>Power</u>	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	<u>Philip 2:12</u>	Rom 5:10

Three Tenses of Salvation (Andy Woods)⁶

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

⁵ <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/1-corinthians-menuitem/message/2002-1stcorinthians-098/read>

⁶ <https://slbc.org/sermon/soteriology-001/>

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According to the Scriptures. Paul is pointing to Old Testament documentation for what he is teaching. Salvation is not something new. The life of Christ and his death, burial and resurrection are not some new concept. They are documented in the “Scriptures” or Old Testament documents.

Psalm 16:10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Isaiah 53:10 But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

1 Corinthians 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

According to the Scriptures. Paul is repeatedly referring back to the Old Testament to emphasize that this doctrine is not something new.

Resurrection of Christ Predicted in the Old Testament

Christ's Resurrection Attested to by Eyewitnesses (15:5-11)

Cephas (5a)

The Twelve (5b)

The five hundred (6)

James (7a)

The rest of the apostles (7b)

Paul (8-11)

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At this point, I want to take a short journey into the book of Genesis, to the fall of Adam and Eve. After all, that is where this all started.

If you ask a question you may get a good answer or maybe not. You must ask the right question. On the internet, if you search for some topic, using the wrong question, wrong words, you will not get you the information you want. So you have to use the right words in order to get a good answer.

The same is true of the Bible. In the past, I have given the example of “there was a feast of the Jews” from John chapter 5. If you ask the right question, you will travel through the Old Testament, perhaps the book of Deuteronomy to find what the feasts of the Jews are and what requirements were levied on Jewish men during those feasts. That journey provides answers to natural questions asked while reading John chapter 5.

Now, another excursion.

We normally think of faith as something good. But that is not always the case. What if you buy something because the advertising says it will last 20 years. And then it falls apart when you get it home. You believed a lie. We have a term for that kind of marketing: “snake oil salesman.”

So, when we look at the fall in Genesis chapter 3 from the perspective of faith and the Angelic Conflict, does this provide a perspective that we have not previously considered?

Previous to Satan entering the picture, Adam and Eve were in status quo trust/faith of God. When Satan entered, he provided a lie to Eve which caused her to distort her perception of the trees in the Garden of Eden. She believed Satan. As she said, she was “deceived.”

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Genesis 3:13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

From the Merriam-Webster on-line dictionary concerning deceive⁷, first definition: “to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid.” As an intransitive verb it means “to make someone believe something that is not true.” To believe a lie.

And I ate. We often talk about “eating” in the New Testament as a picture of faith. So here, the woman “ate” as a result of believing a lie.

So Satan deceived the woman by causing her to believe a lie, his lie. By that single act of faith she and subsequently Adam lost spiritual life, lost righteousness and became a citizen in Satan’s cosmos diabolicus. As a result, those born into this world are lost and if they continue rejection of God’s solution will go to the Lake of Fire. Because of a single act of faith.

God’s solution to restoring humankind to a right relationship with Him is again, faith. Through a single act of faith in Jesus Christ and His truth, His work on the cross, God can restore back to a right relationship to Him those who believe. In resurrection, believers have a body restored without a sin nature with perfect righteousness and everlasting life. They are now citizens of heaven. By a single act of faith. The same way it was lost. By a single act of faith.

⁷ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/deceive>