

## Remember Jesus Christ, Raised from the Dead

2 Timothy 2:8-13

How in the world did 12 peasant fishermen, tax collectors, and farmers multiply to hundreds of millions of professing Christians today? The answer is the Resurrection. No other event has impacted the world so much as the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christianity – the message of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – is good news when you understand it. Christianity spread not just because it's good news – it is the best news available.

Paul was encouraging a young pastor to be strong and endure hardship, and had given several examples – a soldier, an athlete and farmer. But to top it all he said “Remember Jesus, raised from the dead” as the ultimate reason to find strength for living and serving God. Paul gives you and me the same insights today, because of a risen Christ:

### 1. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST GIVES YOU A MESSAGE TO SHARE. (vv. 8-9)

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

- The Resurrection gives six incredible blessings to every believer:
  - 1) We are freed and forgiven by Jesus' death. (Isaiah 56:6-10, Romans 4:25)
  - 2) Jesus defeated death so we don't have to fear it. (2 Peter 1:16, Acts 1:3, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
  - 3) We have God's Spirit inside us. (Acts 1:8, Ephesians 1:19-20)
  - 4) God loves us unconditionally. (John 3:16,17, 1 John 13:34-35)
  - 5) God has a greater purpose for our lives. (Mark 8:35, Acts 15:26, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, Philippians 1:21)
  - 6) We can be certain of a future in heaven. (1 Peter 1:4, 1 Corinthians 2:9, John 14:6, Romans 10:9)
- We have nothing to speak of if Christ is still dead. In fact we should be ashamed of swindling people if the founder of our faith is dead. But because Jesus is the only leader of any movement who really rose from the dead, Romans 1:16 is true for us: “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. . .”

## 2. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST GIVES YOU THE MOTIVATION TO SERVE. (v. 10)

<sup>10</sup> *Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.*

- A favorite interview question for job applicants is this: "What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?" Paul reveals that if you speak about a victoriously risen Christ, in one sense you'll never fail. You are not selling hype, but sharing hope – the only real hope there is.

## 3. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST GIVES YOU A MASTER TO LIVE FOR, AND DIE FOR. (vv. 11-13)

<sup>11</sup> *Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we will also live with Him;*

<sup>12</sup> *if we endure, we will also reign with Him.*

*If we disown Him, He will also disown us;*

<sup>13</sup> *if we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown himself.*

- As a believer, you are not living for, or dying for a creed. Your life here or in the next is not based on a nebulous concept, cause or idea. It is all about a relationship with a Person more real than the ground you walk on. If you are genuinely His, you'll live with Him, reign with Him, and He will never disown you or leave you. The question is: are you certain you are genuinely His? The man or woman who finds it easy to deny Christ needs to ask this hard question.

### **Final Thoughts:**

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead! The Cross was not a dead end, but a station on Jesus' way back to Heaven. That is why in the Gospel of John, the apostle John strikes a triumphant note at the onset of narrating the Crucifixion: The Father had given all things into Jesus' hands, and Jesus was on His way back to His pre-existent glory which He enjoyed with the Father (John 17:5, 24). As Hebrews 12:2 put it, Jesus "endured the cross, despising the shame for the joy that was set before Him".

No doubt, the Cross was glorious in and of itself in displaying Jesus' perfect obedience, God's love for humanity, and Christ's substitutionary death for sinners. Jesus' earthly work is indeed "finished" (John 19:30) – but His glorious work of ruling, reigning, and interceding continues to this day. All because Jesus rose from the dead!

**HE IS RISEN INDEED!**