



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: LESSON 142

Having examined the evidence, we now answer the critical question, “What is the significance of the resurrection of Christ?” The following are the chief implications or benefits of Christ’s resurrection.

Demonstrates that Jesus Christ was the Son of God – The resurrection of Christ is His vindication. As the second person of the Trinity, Jesus is eternally divine, the Son of God, who by coming to earth took on human nature, and thus through His resurrection was declared to all that He indeed was the divine Son of God (Act 17:30-31; Romans 1:4). And having completed His work on earth, the time of humiliation for the lowly suffering Servant was over, and with His resurrection began His glorious exaltation (Isaiah 42:1-4; 52:13; Luke 24:26; Act 2:36; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Peter 1:10-11).

Assures us of our justification – The Bible connects the resurrection of Christ to our justification (Romans 4:24-25). This does not mean that the resurrection of Christ accomplished our justification, for Jesus’ righteous life and sacrificial death did that, but that it gives us confidence that our justification is true and genuine. The fact that Christ rose from the dead attests that God the Father accepted the obedient life and atoning death of His Son in our place, and that nothing more was needed for our salvation (Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 2:11-14).

Had Jesus remained dead, it would have proven that He was just another man, whose death was no different to the death of any other person. It would have proven that He was a sinner and not the Savior, for death has rightful claim only over sinners. In addition, it would have shown that His life and death, in our place, was not acceptable to God. Thus, we would have still remained in our sins, guilty before God (1 Corinthians 15:17). But being perfectly righteous, death had no claim over Jesus (Acts 2:24).

Guarantees our future physical resurrection – Because Christ was resurrected from the death, all who have believed in Him will one day also be resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:12-13, 20-23). Just as the first crops of the harvest gathered by the farmers (firstfruits), gives a foretaste and a pledge of the full harvest to come, so Christ’s resurrection is the first of the full resurrection harvest to come on the last day. Also just as the initial crop is not different from the whole, similarly our resurrection will be like the resurrection of Christ. Just as Jesus died physically, and then rose physically and was glorified, so we who are united to Him, even though we die, our bodies will not remain in the grave forever, but on the last day will be resurrected and reunited with our spirits, and thus we will live as glorified body-spirit beings with God forever (Job 19:25-27; Daniel 12:2-3; Romans 6:5; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2).

Proclaims the defeat of our enemies – The resurrection of Christ is the most powerful declaration of God that Christ defeated the enemies of God – sin, death and Satan. Contrary to Adam and his disobedience, through His perfect obedience Christ as the last Adam, overturned the curses of the Fall for His people (Genesis 3:16-19; John 12:32; Acts 2:24; Romans 8:1-2; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15). Being united to Christ, we also share in His victory over His and our enemies. And though sin, death and Satan are still present and continue to fight us while we live on this earth, they are defeated foes, and by the power of the Spirit we can confront sin and grow in personal holiness, knowing that our ultimate freedom from their presence and their final destruction are guaranteed (Romans 5:17; 6; 7:14-25; 1 Corinthians 15:25, 53-57; 2 Corinthians 1:9-10; Ephesians 1:19-20; Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14).

Many view the resurrection of Christ as simply a story representing a new beginning, renewal, restoration, hope and inspiration, courage to withstand and overcome the struggles of life, and other such optimistic symbols and ideas. But the Bible presents the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ as a historical fact, and a foundational doctrine of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection of Christ there is no Christianity, and there is no salvation for sinful man (Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:17-19, 32).