

## SERMON THOUGHTS ABRIDGED

## ACTS 17:30-31

**CHRIST'S RESURRECTION—THE PROOF YOU NEED**

*Truly these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all, by raising Him from the dead.*

**INTRODUCTION**

What's the point of Easter? Is it family, friends, food? No. Is it candy, bunnies, baby chicks? No. Perhaps ask it this way, What's the point of celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus? That is a more involved question. Is celebrating the resurrection of Jesus just a reminder of that each spring new life comes?--chicks breaking forth from their shelled tombs? --Is it a reminder to "stick to the cause" no matter what happens, even suffering, because in the end, it will all work out Ok? Not that!

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, because of what His resurrection proves for us! As our text says, *He [God] has given assurance—PROOF-- by raising Him from the dead.* Proof of what?

**JESUS IS GOD!**

The text says, *He [God] has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained.* In other words, God has appointed a Man, who is top notch to judge the world in Righteousness. This one is more than a Man—He will judge righteously. Who is He? God has proven His identity by raising Him from the dead! Consider several points:

What will He judge? *These times of ignorance [which] God overlooked.* The verses have been talking about people who worshiped images of stone, wood, gold. And not only them, for every sin is putting something ahead of God—any sin is idol worship. But overlooked the old idol worship or sin. Was it because it happened in ignorance? because it happened before His decrees against it? That would make one wish he could have lived during those times and gotten by with sin, because of ignorance! That's not it. God will judge all those sins, but God has not yet called those sins and those sinners to account. The fact that they have died doesn't matter—no getting off the hook!

*God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world.* A day of reckoning is coming. Each will have to answer, each in all the world. Every last person, for every sin!

*He will judge in righteousness.* This will be a righteous reckoning—no mistakes by the judge, no mis-cues. Has ever been an earthly judge who has not made a mistake? Have you always judged in righteousness with your children or others?

*He will judge . . . by the Man whom He has ordained.* God has entrusted this judgment to a particular Man. But who could possibly fill the job?—to judge in righteousness, in wisdom, with authority, punishing and sparing correctly? God has picked That One. It's Jesus Christ—holy and sinless God, yet mortal flesh and blood Man, the God-Man. God has assured us of His identity by raising him from the dead!

What's the point of celebrating Christ's resurrection? What does it prove? It proves Jesus is God, the Judge. . . *John 10:17-18 I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No man takes it from Me. I lay it down of My own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. He has come back from the dead! He has every right to Judge. He is God. He handles all things right and well. The resurrected Jesus is your God! Trust Him.*

**YOUR SINS ARE FULLY PAID!**

But, doesn't His resurrection and His being God and Judge pose a threat to us? Yes, for those who scoff at Him! Jesus, the all-powerful, righteous God, cannot be fooled. His day of reckoning comes! The day God has appointed. Don't overlook it—it's the day of your death (personal judgment); it's the Day at the End, Judgement Day (public declaration).

But do not panic!. "Judgment" is a two-sided coin. It's terror for one, but rescue for another. His resurrection is not a threat to those who trust in Him, but a great comfort! He is your living Rescuer, judging in your favor. He, the God-Man, has solved the root of your real problem—Death. Death is looming behind you every day. Why is there death? Because of sin. *The wages of sin is death.* Sin is the root of the problem. Jesus provides the solution. *But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).*

Let's examine more. *God commands all men everywhere to repent.* To repent, to see the error of your ways, to see your helplessness and doom sin brings. Repent! A change of heart, mind, and conduct, clinging to Jesus' mercy and forgiveness. In His mercy you are found righteous—not in the sense that if God digs deep enough He will find some good in you. The Bible is clear, there is none to find. But in the sense that, even though guilty, you are pronounced righteous through Christ. A gift!

Do you grasp the value of that gift? Take an honest look at self. The older you get, the more you see your mistakes and sins—a better perspective. And how about this past week with the storm? Did you, do you, blame your bad words, thoughts, actions—on the weather, the cows, the tractor, your helpers, the road crews, the weatherman? Are your mistakes—last week or any time—financially costly, Do you regret them? It's easy to soothe a bad conscience with---“Well, it actually won't cost me anything. Insurance will cover it.” But what about the actual error? What about your guilt?

Christ, who died on the cross for you, has paid the price in full. Jesus took your sin, your guilt, and your death for every sin to the cross. He was forsaken by God on the cross for you. He cried out, “It is finished!”—the price was paid in full. He died. And His resurrection proves your penalty is paid. If the debt for sin were not paid in full, death would still be in charge and Christ would still be in the grave. He lives! Forgiveness is yours in Him!

Why celebrate Easter? The one whom He has appointed carries the day for you. He has won forgiveness for you. God has given assurance of this to all, by raising Him from the dead! Paul says, “If Christ is NOT raised, your faith is vain, you are still in your sins” (I Corinthians 15:17)! Jesus lives!

### **YOU WILL BE RAISED FROM THE GRAVE!**

With sins forgiven, you have new life. New life? Does that just mean you get a second try? What would the outcome of that be? Same old thing. Try again and again. True, you are forgiven, BUT picture yourself in twenty years! In forty years! Death keeps gaining on you. Death keeps rolling ever closer behind you. You can see it in the wear and tear on the body. But in Jesus a REAL NEW LIFE is yours. Jesus rose from the grave. He will also raise you from the grave! He will take you to eternal life in heaven.

The resurrection of Jesus is your open door to heaven. *Because I live, you will live also John 14:19*

You will come out of that grave alive, whether just bones are left, or whether even the bones have turned back to dust. He will restore your body, rejoin body and soul, and you will live. Your rescuing and forgiving Savior will take you to the glories of heaven. You are safe and are saved! His resurrection proves it!

*I am the Resurrection and the Life, He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die John 11:25-26/*

*O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law; but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Christ Jesus our Lord I Corinthians 15:55-57*

*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord Romans 6:23.*

If you had an incurable sickness, which not even the brightest doctors could cure, but you learned of a doctor with the exact same illness, who cured himself, would you go to him? He would be easy to trust. Jesus raised Himself. He will raise you too. *I lay down My life that I may take it up again.* Trust Him. God has given assurance of this to all, by raising Him from the dead!

### **CONCLUSION**

Why celebrate Easter, why celebrate the Resurrection of Christ? What's the point? It's more than that He lives on in our hearts and minds. It's much than that He teaches us to be loyal to the cause, to love, and to help others.

We celebrate Easter because by His resurrection we know that . . .

--He is almighty God, our rescue! Rejoice!

--Our sins have already been fully pardoned--you are forgiven! Rejoice!

--We will be raised from the grave, no matter the condition of our body, to go to the bliss of heaven! Rejoice!

Celebrate! Not just one hour this morning, not just one day today—as if were a short sugar-high from candy. His Resurrection is meat and potatoes, nourishment for the long haul, for the struggles of this sinful life, for entering eternal life!

JESUS LIVES! Rejoice!

So be it! Amen!

Pastor Kanzenbach--