

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 the Easter celebration? Family, friends, food? No. Candy, bunnies, baby chicks? No. Perhaps ask it this way? What's the point of celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus?

Is celebrating the resurrection of Jesus just a reminder of that each spring new life comes?

--chicks breaking forth from their shelled tombs? --bunnies bringing cuteness to life? No.

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, because of what it proves!

As our text says. *He has given assurance—PROOF-- by raising Him from the dead.*

Proof of what?

PART 1 HE IS GOD!

He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained.

God has appointed a Man, who is top notch enough to judge the world in Righteousness.

The God-man!

God has proven His identity by raising Him from the grave!

Consider several points:

What will He judge?

*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked—*meaning the worship of images--stone, wood, gold. Sin.

Did God overlook the old idol worship and sin because it happened in ignorance before His decree?

(Do you wish you could have lived during those times, and gotten by, because of ignorance?)

Not it. God will judge those sins, but God has not yet called those sins and those sinners to account.

That they have died doesn't even matter—no getting off the hook!

He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world. A day of reckoning is coming.

Each will have to answer.

He will judge in righteousness. A *righteous* reckoning—no mistakes by the judge, no mis-cues.

Do you think there has ever been an earthly judge who has never made a mistake?

(Have you always judged in righteousness with your children and others?)

He will judge the world.

This judgment will be for all the world—every last person.

By the Man whom He has ordained.

He has entrusted this judgment to a particular Man.

Who can fill the job?—to judge in righteousness, in wisdom, with authority to punish or to spare?

God has picked that one, the God-Man, and has assured us of who He is—

By raising him from the dead!

It's Jesus Christ—holy and sinless God, yet mortal flesh and blood Man.

What's the point of celebrating Christ's resurrection? What does it prove?

It proves He is God!

He has come back from the dead!—and has every right to 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 is God. He handles all things right and well.

Jesus came back from Death. Jesus is your God! Trust Him.

PART 2 YOUR SINS ARE FULLY PAID!

Doesn't His resurrection and His being God pose a threat to you? Yes, for those who scoff at Him!

He is God, all powerful, righteous, and cannot be fooled.

His day of reckoning comes! The day God has appointed. Don't overlook it

--The day of your death (personal judgment) --Judgment Day at the End (public declaration)!

But flip the coin over. His resurrection is not a threat for those who trust in Him, but a great confidence builder. He the God-Man has solved the root of the problem—the cause of death

Why is there death?? Because of sin. *The wages of sin is death Romans 6:23.*

Sin is the root of the problem. Jesus provides the solution.

God commands all men everywhere to repent. See the errors of your ways, your helplessness and doom.

Repent! A change of heart, mind, and action. Seek His mercy and forgiveness.

In Him you are found righteous—not in the sense that if God digs deep enough there is some good in you.

But in the sense that you are pronounced righteous through Christ. A gift!

Take an honest look at self. The older you get, the more you see your mistakes--better perspective.

How about this past week with the storm—Did (do) you blame your bad words, thoughts, actions-

--On the weather, the cows, the tractor, your helpers, the road crews, the weatherman?

Were your mistakes financially costly? It's easy to soothe a bad conscience—

“Well, it won't cost me anything; insurance will cover it”

But what about the actual error? What about your guilt?

Christ has paid the price in full for you.

Jesus took your sin, your guilt, and its death to the cross. He was forsaken by God on the cross and died for you. “It is finished!” He cried out. The price is paid in full.

His resurrection proves it. If the debt for sin were still unpaid, death would not be conquered..

Why celebrate Easter? The one whom He has appointed carries the day for you. He rose from the grave!

God has given assurance of this to all, by raising Him from the dead! If sin unpaid, He still dead.

If Christ is not raised, your faith is vain, you are still in your sins. I Corinthians 15:17

PART 3 YOU WILL BE RAISED FROM THE GRAVE!

With sins forgiven, you have new life. Does that mean just a second try?

What would the outcome of that be? Same old thing. Try again and again

Step back a moment: Your sins forgiven, but picture yourself in twenty years! In forty years!

Death still confronts you,. You can see it in the wear and tear on the body.

In Jesus a real new life is yours. Jesus rose from the grave! He will raise you from the grave also!.

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

Because I live, You will live also John 14:19

Consider: If you had an incurable sickness, but a doctor with the same sickness, cured himself,

Would you go to him with confidence? Easy to trust.

Jesus can and will raise you too. Trust Him.

God 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!

CONCLUSION

Why celebrate the Resurrection of Christ? What's the point?

--It's much more than that He lives on in our hearts and minds.

--It's much more than that He teaches us to be loyal to the cause, to love, and to help others.

He has risen. Now you know

--that He is almighty God! Rejoice!

--that your sins have been fully atoned for by His death! Rejoice!

--that He will raise you from the grave to go to heaven! Rejoice!

Celebrate, not just one hour this morning, not just one day today--like a little sugar high from candy.

This is meat and potatoes nourishment, for the long haul, for all the struggles of this sinful life, to eternal life!

JESUS LIVES!

The Truth--Amen!

Pastor Kanzenbach