

SERIES: FOR YOU

Part 2: How You Benefit From Christ's Resurrection

Happy Easter. He is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Last week on Palm Sunday I did my version of a Good Friday teaching, and I discussed How to Benefit from Jesus' Crucifixion. Today, I want to talk to you about HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT FROM CHRIST'S RESURRECTION. Because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by Father God on Easter Sunday 2,000 years ago, this historical event split all of history into BC before Christ and AD after Christ. There are 3 three things we can know for certain about the benefits that are offered to you from Jesus Christ being raised from the dead. There is enough factual evidence that proves that the major events of the N.T. actually occurred 2,000 years ago. The facts are that Jesus really lived, taught, performed miracles, died by crucifixion, and then was raised from the dead by Father God. Here are three books I highly recommend that you get so you can dig deeper into the facts for yourself concerning the truth of the Easter Event: **I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist**, by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek; **The Case For The Resurrection**, by Dr. Gary Habermas; **The Case For Easter**, by Lee Strobel. As I begin I want to share with you an excerpt from a teaching titled, **"One Solitary Life,"** by James Allan Francis, cited in Chapter 12 from the book, **I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist**:

"He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter

shop until he was 30. Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend. Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned—put together, have not affected the life of humanity on this earth as much as this one, solitary life.”

Geisler and Turek write, “If there was no resurrection, how could this life be the most influential life of all time? We don't have enough faith to believe that this one solitary life from a remote, ancient village could be the most influential life of all time... unless the Resurrection is true.”

Please read out loud with me 1 Corinthians 15:21-23, let's begin, **“So you see, just as death came into the world**

through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. ²²Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. ²³But there is an order to this resurrection. Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back.”

Last week we looked at HOW YOU BENEFIT FROM CHRIST’S DEATH. You can see those truths on your notes under Part I:

- A. Total forgiveness for my rebellion and sin against Him**
- B. Healing power for my life**
- C. Power to break free from forces that control my life**

Let’s turn our attention to

**Part 2: The benefits from Jesus’ resurrection:
Three things we know for certain**

A. Jesus has a great purpose for my life

I will argue that the most important question you can ask regardless of your age is what is my purpose in life? What on earth am I here for? Geisler and Turek write, “When Mortimer Alder was asked why the ‘God’ section was the largest in the Great Books of the Western World series (which he edited), he insightfully observed that it’s because more implications flow from the subject of God than from any other subject.” Indeed, the five most consequential

questions in life are these: **1) Origin: Where did we come from?, 2) Identity: Who are we?, 3) Meaning: Why are we here?, 4) Morality: How should we live?, 5) Destiny: Where are we going?** Many people in our culture confuse purpose with other things. Purpose is not success. You can be outrageously successful and not know your purpose. You can make a lot of money and not know your purpose. You can be incredibly famous, talented and productive and still miss the purpose for which God created you.

The only way you will ever know your purpose in life is to talk with God about your purpose and read His manual for your life, the Bible. If you don't do those two things you will never know the purpose of why you were created. The truth is, loved ones, you are not an accident. There are accidental parents, but there are no accidental children. There are illegitimate parents, but there are no illegitimate children. Your parents may not have planned you, but God did. God could not control their parenting skills and whether they were good or bad, but He used their DNA because God knew that they had just the right DNA to create you. Whether your parents were good, bad or indifferent, and maybe you're here and you didn't grow up with them, or you have never met your biological parents, God wanted you so much that He allowed them to create you. Friends, we do not take seriously enough the creative power of our sexuality. There is a great undertow in our culture today to discredit the creation of your gender to God, and it is being touted that you can choose your gender and your identity, and you can become who you think you should be. The Bible is very clear that God created

you just the way He wanted you to be. Your gender is a very important aspect of His purpose and plan for your life. God's purpose for my life is bigger than your parents' plan and purpose. How is God's purpose for your life connected to Easter? 2 Corinthians 5:15 says, **“He (Jesus) died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.”** Christ's new life and giving us the ability to live for Him is the best life you could ever imagine. Loved ones, most of us are not aware of the strain and drain living for ourselves costs us. This same verse in The Message paraphrase says, **“Jesus included everyone in His death so that everyone could also be included in His life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.”** Where do we get our purpose? Colossians 1:16 says, **“For through Jesus God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him.”** Jesus Christ has created everything and everyone that exists which means He has a strategic plan for your life, so He can flow His purposes and plans through your life to impact and influence other people with His love, grace, mercy, and acceptance.

Ephesians 1:11 says, **“Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God.”** Some translations say we are God's inheritance. He loves you so much that He gave His only Son to pay for yours and my

sins, rebellion and selfishness, because He wants us in His family both now and for eternity. We are a purpose driven church and we exist to help every one of you discover and develop your purpose. The resurrection of Jesus answers the questions of: **Where did I come from? Who am I? Why am I here? How am I to live? Where will I spend eternity?** **The first benefit of Christ's resurrection, of Easter, is JESUS HAS A GREATER PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE.**

B. Jesus has given us His power for our problems

Easter demonstrates and proves God's power. Father God raising Jesus from the dead breaks the power of sin, satan and death. 1 John 3:8b says, **"But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil."** Ephesians 1:19-20 describes the same mighty power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead lives in us through the power of the Holy Spirit when we surrender our lives to Jesus. **"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."** This is one of the most powerful benefits that come to every person who surrenders their life to Jesus Christ. The exact same power that brought Jesus back to life is available to you and me in our daily lives. When you put your faith in Jesus and you learn to release your faith, you activate the power that Jesus Christ has placed inside of you by His Holy Spirit. The resurrection of Jesus comes with a promise. 1 Corinthians 6:14 says, **"And God will raise us from the**

dead by His power, just as He raised our Lord from the dead.”

I want to ask you a very personal question this Easter. Where do you need Jesus’ resurrection power in your life? I’m talking about right now. Let me articulate it another way. What’s dying in your life right now, or maybe it’s already dead and you know it and you need God’s power through Jesus Christ to bring it back to life? Where do you need a resurrection breakthrough this year in 2018? Here at **CVCHURCH 2018 is The Year of Breakthrough.** Do you need a resurrection in your marriage? In your relationships? In your emotional health, your finances? In your mind? In your health and in your body? There isn’t anything in your life that God cannot resurrect if you will but turn your life over to Him and put your faith and trust in Him. In 2 Corinthians chapter 1:8-10 Paul tells us how God helps us when we think it is hopeless. You see, some of you could be on the edge of giving up right now, and if we could put an x-ray to your mind it would show you’re pretty desperate. I am so glad that you are here today with us. Because of Jesus’ love and because of the purpose He has for your life and because of His resurrection power that He wants to give you, it is my privilege to say to you, “Do not give up.” Maybe you feel like giving up on your dreams, or your marriage, or your family or your health. Maybe you even feel like giving up on your own life. Jesus says to you, “Don’t. Don’t give up on yourself, because I haven’t given up on you.” Paul is very descriptive in how God will and can use whatever it is you’re going through right now. **“8We think you ought to know,**

dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. ⁹In fact, we expected to die. But as a result we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰And He did rescue us from mortal danger, and He will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in Him, and He will continue to rescue us.” Wherever you feel that something is dying in your life or it is dead, today, on this Easter 2018, is the time to get real honest with God and with yourself and say to Jesus, “What I am doing is not working. I do not have the power to get done what I need to get done in my life.” God says when you come to the end of yourself, that is where you will find Me, if you turn to Me. Paul says that the reason God lets us come to our end is so we will learn to stop relying on ourselves and learn to rely on Him who raises the dead. God is the only one that can bring back to life that which has died in your life. If you will call out to Jesus today, He will come and help you. He will rescue you if you call out to Him. Paul said, “I cried out to Him, and I chose to place my confidence in Him, and He will continue to rescue us,” and I declare to you today, friends, if you will put your trust in Him and cry out to Jesus for the resurrection breakthrough that you need, He will hear you, and He will act on your behalf. God gives you His promise of His purpose and His power for your life. 2 Peter 1:2-3 says, **“²May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. ³By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for**

living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the one who calls us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory and excellence.” You might say, “Scott, I don’t have everything I need.” Then I would say, “You need to get to know Jesus and get to know Him better and better. As you get to know Jesus better, you will get to know Him as your source of purpose and that He’s the source of your power.”

C. God has a great place for me after I die

What we learn from Jesus’ resurrection is that there is more to life than the here and now. Jesus demonstrates that death is not the end. Yes, one day your heart is going to stop, but that will not be the end of your soul because you were created in the image of God. God’s image is eternal which means you are too. Father God has demonstrated the eternality of each one of us by raising His Son, Jesus Christ from the dead.

In John 11 Mary and Martha’s brother was deathly sick. When He was told this, Jesus said this sickness will not end in death. Jesus says his sickness will end up bringing glory to God so that His Son, Jesus, will receive glory. The Scriptures says that, although Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus, He chose to stay where He was for two more days. During those two days Lazarus dies. Martha hints to Jesus when she saw Him that, “If You had been here, he wouldn’t have died.” Martha represents so many of us, doesn’t she? “Jesus, if you had simply been here or done what You could have, things would have turned out differently.” It was in this exchange

with Martha that Jesus gives us one of His most profound truths about His resurrection. John 11:25-26a says, **“I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. ²⁶Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die. Do you believe this Martha?”** How do I know that Jesus is telling the truth? First, He raised Lazarus from the dead, and secondly, Father God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is one of the most attested miracles in history. Jesus was present for 40 days in Jerusalem after He had been raised. He didn’t just say bye to His disciples and went and joined His father. No, He walked and talked with His disciples, He ate meals with them and demonstrated to them what their lives will be like when He comes back a second time. I love the fact that Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples and continued to teach them what the Kingdom of God is like and will be like in the future. How do you receive eternal life? You simply put your trust in what the Bible says is true about Jesus Christ. He is God. He has conquered death, the grave and our arch enemy satan. When you confess your sin and you turn away from leading your life, and you turn the control of your life over to Jesus, and you confess Him as your Lord and Savior, you are saved and you receive eternal life at that moment. Jesus says, **“Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die.”** Since Father God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, here is what the Bible says we have once you put your faith in Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:3b-5 says, **“It is by His great mercy that we have been born again because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, ⁴and we have a**

priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. ⁵And through your faith, God is protecting you by His power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed in the last days for all to see.” It is because God the Father loves you so much that He sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross for you so that you experience total forgiveness for your rebellion and sin against Him. So that you could have His Healing power in your life. So that you can experience His Divine power to break free from the forces that control your life. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead so that you can experience His purpose for your life. So that you can receive His power for all of your problems and difficulties you will face in this life. The last benefit is that God has a great place for you to live with Him and His family after you die for eternity. One of the best books ever written on heaven in the last 300 years is the book entitled HEAVEN by Randy Alcorn. The Bible says a lot about Heaven and that Heaven is going to come to earth. Those who surrender their lives to Jesus Christ in this life will rule and reign with Him for eternity in God’s new heaven and new earth. If this piques your curiosity, it is a must to get this book and read it.

D. How do I get these benefits?

Because of the resurrection we know that these benefits I have discussed with you for the last two weeks can be yours right now. How? Romans 10:9 says this, **“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your**

heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” This is what the Bible says. Jesus Christ did all of this for you. I appreciate the honor and the privilege of leading you in a very simple prayer. You can pray with me in your heart and mind. Jesus Christ is listening to you as you pray this prayer with me. “Father God, I do not want to go through life not knowing my purpose. Thank You that my life is not an accident. Thank You that You planned me whether my parents did or not, and that You’ve loved me every moment of my life since my conception. So today as much as I know how I want to open my life to Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for me and rose again so that I can have hope. Jesus Christ, I want to know God’s purpose for my life, and I want to spend the rest of my life learning it and fulfilling in. Jesus Christ, I confess with my mouth that You are the Lord, and I believe in my heart that Father God raised You from the dead. Thank You that as I pray this prayer I receive Your salvation, love, grace, mercy and purpose for my life Thank You for loving me even before I knew You. Thank You for dying for me before I was created. I humbly ask You to accept me into Your family that I may experience all the benefits of what You did 2,000 years ago. I pray this prayer in Jesus’ name.”