

## 2. Divine assurance of our salvation.

Second, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the assurance of our resurrection from the dead.

When Jesus was crucified on the cross and breathed His last, it was the death of the Son of God. If the gospel ended there what would this have meant? It would mean that there is no reason to believe that there is a resurrection from the dead. It would mean that preaching is in vain. Faith is also in vain and that it means that we are still in our sins. It also means that those who died are dead, end of story, end of life.

Then would come the eternal judgment of God against all of our sins.

The cross is not the final word. The angel at the tomb preached the first sermon that the world has ever heard: "He is risen!" God has declared that His judgment against all our sins has been carried out in full upon Jesus. Now, our death is not the end of life, but a doorway we peacefully pass through to eternal life.

## 3. The Restoration of the body.

Third, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the resurrection of Jesus from the dead pertains not only to our soul, but also of our body.

How important is that little detail that all four gospel writers are careful to include. The women did not see the body of Jesus in the tomb. The angels insisted that they look inside just to be sure. The disciples rush down to confirm for themselves that the body is really not there. So when the disciples see Jesus in Galilee just as He promised they would, it left no doubt that this was not just a vision or a trick that their mind was playing on them, but that it is Jesus in the same body that was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and buried. At first, the disciples don't get it, but Jesus quickly corrects them.

The important point here is that this is not just simply a spiritual resurrection or a Christ who lives in our thoughts or memories of Him. This is the real, physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, and what holds for Christ also holds for those who are in Christ. The Church has always insisted that essential to the Christian hope is the confession, "I believe in the resurrection of the body."

The angel who greeted the women at the tomb announced, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen: he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as he told you."

The day will come, when Jesus will come again in His glory, and we will see Him, along with the same angels, to announce that the world's last day has come. When this happens, "Do not be alarmed." Lift up your hearts and give thanks for the resurrection of your body is about to take place.

\* (excerpted from: lcrwtvl.org)

## "The Meaning of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ"



The angel who greeted the women at the tomb announced,

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## "The Meaning of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ"

\*What a difference there is between our celebration of Easter and that of those who experienced Easter for the first time at the tomb. Today, we do not expect to find things still shrouded in the darkness of death as they were on Good Friday. But the three women who went to the tomb on that first Easter morning fully expected to find nothing else but the dead body of Jesus in the tomb where they had seen Him laid. For us, Easter Sunday morning is a time to rejoice, when we say "He is risen!" When the women heard the angel say "He is risen" they fled for trembling and astonishment and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid. Most notably in St. Mark's account of the gospel, which the other writers miss, is that whenever anyone stumbles upon God's miraculous interruption of the normal process of death and dying, it always causes more fear than joy. Several examples can be seen in the passage where Jesus calms the stormy sea and the disciples were filled with fear (4:4); when Jesus exorcized the legion of demons from the man and sent them into the herd of pigs, the people were afraid of Jesus and asked Him to leave town (5:15).

Had the women found Jesus' body right where it had been laid, no one would have been surprised, filled with grief, terrified, or astonished and trembling. In our own lives we have learned to accept these things. We live and work with people all the time who are in various stages of death and dying, and we are in that same boat with them. We explain this situation as merely being part of life.

Suddenly, there has appeared One who has shaken everything up and that shakes us up as well. He has done the unexpected thing and now we are not sure just what to expect anymore. And that scares us. We thought we had life all figured out. You live and then you die and that's that. But now there comes One who has shown us that there is more to life than meets the eye. We always thought death was inescapable, but death could not hold Him. We always thought that the laws of nature were fixed and unchangeable, but He has struck down the old law and established a whole new one. Now there is One who has demonstrated before our very eyes that there is life, and then death and then resurrection. Suddenly we realize that the old explanations and theories are insufficient; there must be new wineskins, a new word and a new explanation. This requires that a whole new approach to living is in order. We cannot figure out what this new word means because "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him." So God must send His Holy Spirit to give sight to the blind, unstop the ears of the deaf and give us a whole new heart, His own heart, so that now, even our own pulse is a constant reminder of the Holy Spirit's life beating within us.

What then is the Holy Spirit's explanation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Let us learn three things from the Spirit of truth.

### 1. Divine approval of all Jesus has done.

First of all, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is divine proof that God is pleased with all that Jesus has done.

When Jesus was baptized and again at His Transfiguration, the voice of the Father was heard to say, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Now by raising Jesus from the dead, we see the full measure of the Father's pleasure with His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

God the Father has said that He is "well pleased" with His beloved Son. This is perfect pleasure because God is perfect. His pleasure is pure pleasure with no exception and no regrets. The Father is pleased with His Son, and with all Jesus has done, from His conception in the virgin's womb to his last breath on the cross.

In the beginning, God created the world with His Word. Nothing was made that has been apart from the Word. After the 6th day, of Creation, God saw that all He had made was good. Then Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden and all creation was ruined by sin. God was **NOT PLEASED** with them and they had to leave the garden. And in Adam, we have all been one, one huge rebellious man.

However, God so loved the world, and His love is pure and perfect. In His great love for the world, He spoke once again, and the creative word of God became flesh and dwelled among us. The Father sent His only Son into the world to tear down the wall of separation and reunite us with Him. The wall that separates us from God is our sin and every generation has added its own sin to it.

Jesus has torn the wall down by His death on the cross. The barrier that had stood between God and us has been destroyed by the cross of Christ. Jesus has taken all of our sins upon Himself and atoned for them, receiving in Himself the punishment we deserved. On the 7th day of Creation, God "FINISHED" His work, on Good Friday, Jesus fulfilled that word, making all things new again and saying "It is FINISHED."

Once again, seeing all that He had done, God announced His definitive and final 'it is very good' upon His new creation by raising Jesus from the dead. On Easter Sunday, the Father declares to all the world, "this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."