

Light and Life: Jesus in the Gospel of John

Today's message: From Christmas to Easter

"If we believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the only begotten Son of God and that He came into this world and went to the cross of Calvary and died for our sins and rose again in order to justify us and to give us life anew and prepare us for heaven - if you really believe that, there is only one inevitable deduction, namely that He is entitled to the whole of our lives, without any limit whatsoever."

- D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*

John 20:1-9 (ESV)

¹ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that **he must rise from the dead**.

Why everything we hope for hinges on the Resurrection:

If there is no resurrection, our Scriptures are _____, Jesus' messianic claims were _____, and his life accounted for _____.

Luke 24:5b-8 (ESV)

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. **Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.**" ⁸ And they remembered his words ...

1st Corinthians 15:1-8 (ESV)

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,** ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

If there is no resurrection, we are not _____ and we still _____ for our sins.

Romans 4:24b-25 (ESV)

²⁴ ... Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and **raised for our justification.**

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

... 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.

1 Corinthians 15:13-17 (ESV)

¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

If there is no resurrection, our lives are _____ and we are _____ to change them.

Romans 6:1-4 (ESV)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

1st Corinthians 15:20 (ESV)

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead ...

Epilogue: Thomas and the incentive to **believe**

John 20:24-31 (ESV)

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. **Do not disbelieve, but believe.**" ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**"

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but **these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**