

Resurrection: Peace and Proclamation

John 20:19-23

April 20, 2025

Meeting the Lord, now risen from the dead, will change you.

The power of the resurrection is still working today!

The Risen Lord Gives Lasting Peace, v. 19

Why is Sunday night emphasized in the text?

How does Jesus greet them? Is it an ordinary greeting?

Who was in the room?

In a word, what is the meaning and purpose of the resurrection?

How far does this peace from God extend?

The Risen Lord Gives Sufficient Proof, v. 20

Proof of the resurrection. Look at My hands, and My side.

The Risen Lord Gives Unifying Purpose, v. 21

“I am sending you.” We enter the continuing work of God in this world.

What are we sent to do?

What is our great encouragement in doing God’s work in this world?

The Risen Lord Gives Great Power, v. 22-23

Who is equal to this task? The God who sent us, equips us.

We have the gospel authority to pronounce forgiveness and judgment.

We enforce the terms of the covenant.

What is the perfect tense?

What is the power of the resurrection for today?

Meditation

Raised with Christ!

Colossians 3 gives the church a glimpse of what the believer’s life means in light of Christ’s resurrection. It says that you, as a believer, have *already* been brought into resurrection-union with Jesus Christ. For this reason, we must correct a common misunderstanding. Usually when believers think of their resurrection, they think that it is an event which will take place exclusively in the future—at the time of Christ’s second coming. If this is how you understand your resurrection, then you do not fully understand the dynamic of Christ’s resurrection, which took place two thousand years ago. For the Bible teaches that the believer’s resurrection took place two thousand years ago—notice the *past* tense in verse 1: “Since then, you *have been* raised with Christ” (ASV: “If then ye *were* raised together with Christ”). Thus, Christ’s resurrection is the active dynamic which resurrects all believers (past, present, and future). God the Father did not raise Christ from the dead in isolation. Rather, the power of Christ’s resurrection brought life to all His people, those who have lived and those who will live.

I recall hearing a story regarding Rev. G. I. Williamson when he was a pastor in Fall River, Massachusetts. According to the story, Rev. Williamson was greeting his congregation following the morning service. In this cordial atmosphere, a number of fine Christian ladies approached Rev. Williamson and asked him when he had been saved. In other words, when was his personal crisis experience in coming to know Jesus Christ? Before Rev. Williamson could respond, a five-year-old girl standing beside them spurted out: “I was saved two thousand years ago.” Oh people of God, do you see the genius of that little girl’s response? Her confession demonstrates tremendous insight! The ladies viewed salvation as an individual and subjective crisis experience, whereas the little girl already understood that her salvation was totally accomplished through the death and resurrection of Christ two thousand years ago. In other words, salvation is not dependent upon what I do, but upon what Christ has done. At a very young age, that little girl was voicing exactly what the Holy Spirit is teaching through Paul concerning the believer’s salvation in Christ.

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