

04122020 Easter Christianity is all about the Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the one element that makes Christianity not only superior to every other religion, but totally different from every other religion. Someone has rightly said, "Christianity begins where other religions end: with the resurrection of Jesus Christ." every other religion of the world can point to a founding father, and they can even point to his grave. But only Christianity points to an empty tomb and says, "our founder is alive."

We've all read or heard those stories that have great "underdog comeback" endings. There is no greater comeback Than a dead person receiving life back ... in fact that is what resurrection means..

(Tim please put this on the screen)

- Resurrection is a noun; which means to Rise from the dead...to bring what was dead back to life!
- Resurrection means to restore a life to its former condition and existence...
- So Resurrection is a return to a physical body in a physical universe on a physical earth.

The disciples could not imagine this...Though the disciples walked with Jesus, listened to his teaching...they did not believe he would die...and by extension could not comprehend the Resurrection...

In Fact... Jesus knew this info was to much for them to comprehend...and the night before he died... he told them they would not understand all that was going on... they had witnessed the resurrection of Lazarus...all the miracles...the anointing by Mary of Jesus ..which he told them was a preparation for his death...His triumphal entry...the 3 different times he spoke of the Resurrection...

*John 12:¹⁶ His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him. At first his disciples did not **understand** all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.*

then at the last supper...

John 13:7 Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." at the same supper ..he tells them plainly...

John 14:1 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³ When everything is

ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”

the response... *John 14:5* “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have *no idea* where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

then he tells them... *John 16:5* “But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. ⁶ Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. ⁷ But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

He closes his teaching... *John 16:12* “I have *much more* to say to you, more than you can now bear

- These disciples were setting the example for all those who have followed Jesus since...we often don’t understand...and sometimes become unsure of that which we were previously sure...
- They believed him to be the expectant messiah...but he died
- A dead Messiah is no Messiah...A dead God is no God...

*****Lets pick up the story of when they finally understood part of Jesus' plan.... a few of the women were going to go back to the tomb on the third day to to give him a proper burial and anointing.**

1. they did not believe he would rise from the dead at least literally...so they were going to do the proper Jewish burial procedures...
2. the idea being to ward off and delay body decomposition ...At least we can anoint Jesus and say we love you...and good bye

LK 24:1 But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

- The women came to the tomb very early, before it was light outside ...The women were looking NOT for a resurrected man, but for a DEAD man.
- They did not think it possible that someone standing behind them could be Jesus.

Luke 24: 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ³ So they went in, but they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

⁵ The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? ⁶ He isn’t

here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 7 *that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.*” 8 *Then they remembered that he had said this.* 9 *So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.* 10 *It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened.* 11 *But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn’t believe it.*

- **We can believe and love Jesus ...just like these ladies did And still believe that Jesus cannot do what he said he would ... like the apostles did**
- **They did what a lot of Christians do...they spiritualized the resurrection which in effect denies it...There will be a resurrection kind of...we live in a spiritual state in heaven forever**
- **After Jesus’ resurrection, the disciples understood for the first time many of the prophecies that they had missed along the way.**
- **Jesus’ words and actions took on new meaning and made more sense. They understood his plans better through hindsight...**

It is God's standard operating procedure for His work in the present to not be fully or often even halfway understood...

- **But it is through obedience and experience which takes time ...do we begin to understand his working out of His great plans...**
- **At this point in our lives ...not one person in here fully understands what God is doing with your life and in your lifeand through your life...**
- **the women believed ...the guys were a little slower**

...that same evening..

*JN 20: 19 That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. 20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. *They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!**

But there is something that transcends understanding...and that is peace...peace in our hearts...Peace because we are ok with God...

- **Peace be with you and me...he is stating...no need to fear we are at peace...I am alive like I told you...death or separation has been overcome...we will live together in Peace...the relationship between God and man is healed...for eternity**
- **In fact But he adds something to it...because you and the Father are at peace I give you our gift...the promised Holy Spirit**

John 20:22 Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

- who is the guarantee of our inheritance..

Eph 1: ¹⁴ The *Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised* and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

- the Holy Spirit guarantees our inheritance...**what is our inheritance? Resurrection..**

*****Therefore...Resurrection is the most important doctrine of the Christian Faith, for every other doctrine only has value if we live again after we die in bodily form..**

Jesus did not just die to remove our sins; if He merely died, then death has the last word.

- Without the resurrection, the Christian religion comes tumbling down — like taking the bottom pieces out of jenga.
- **Listen to what The Apostle Paul says...**

1 Corinthians 15:14 ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. ¹⁵ And *we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can’t be true if there is no resurrection of the dead.* ¹⁶ And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. ²⁰ But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

- If Jesus did not resurrect...What we preach is useless... has absolutely no value... this life heaven or hell even has no value...death has the last word
- If Jesus did not resurrect...Our Faith is useless... it is worth absolutely nothing it is futile...there is no point to our faith...
- If Jesus did not resurrect...We are false witnesses about God...we are liars and should not be believed in anything pertaining to God...
- If Jesus did not resurrect...He then is still dead.... and Christianity is the meanest cruelest HOAX— it is a lie and sadistic.
- **If Jesus did not resurrect...we just sang to a dead man, we prayed to a dead man, I foolishly preach about a dead man, we worship a powerless dead man, we put trust in a dead man! We would truly be the most foolish of all!!**

- **Death is the fundamental human problem, for if death is really final then nothing is worthwhile save self-indulgence.**

1 Corinthians 15:32 —if there will be no resurrection from the dead? And if there is no resurrection, “Let’s feast and drink, for tomorrow we die

- **If no resurrections...Death has the final say...so live it up while you can! But Jesus did rise and the Resurrection is real...**
- **God designed our bodies to be an integral part of our total being. Our physical bodies are an essential aspect of who we are, not just shells for our spirits to inhabit ...**
- **So Death was and is an abnormal condition because it tears apart what God created and joined together ...not only human beings but all God’s creation the Resurrection encompasses all creation Just as all creation was effected by the fall of man...the redemption effects all of creation...**

Romans 8: ²¹ *the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.*

- **Remember...Resurrection means a permanent return to a physical body in a physical universe on a physical earth. Resurrection means to restore life to its former condition and existence... alive with a body!**
- **This damaged creation cries out to be repaired...and it is His plan to repair it. He is going to remodel the old earth on a grand scale...**
- **Interesting term ..Childbirth...the new life is waiting to be born...**
- **but there is groaning and pain associated with it...but the new life is coming...**
- **the earth groans while waiting .. we groan also as we wait for the full number to come in...**
- **What is the glory?? We will resurrected and live again forever in this creation...**

Romans 8:23 *And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us*²⁴ *We were given this hope when we were saved. ...*

- **Jesus' resurrection marks the beginning of a restoration that he will complete upon his return.**

*1CO 15:20*²⁰ *But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.*

- **and His resurrection body is similar to what our resurrection body will be like.**

*1JN 3:*² *Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that **we will be like him,** for we will see him as he really is.*

Paul speaks of it like this...

*Philippians 3:*²¹ *He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own....*

- **what makes his body glorious? It is forever**

*1COR 15:*⁴² *It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be **raised to live forever.***

- **these bodies from birth are perishable...they eventually end up in the ground it dis-honors the body to die... but will be raised imperishable...**
- **And there will be continuity... our spirits imperishable our bodies imperishable...**

*1 Cor 15:*⁴⁷ *Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven.*⁴⁸ *Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man.*⁴⁹ *Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.*⁵⁰ *What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.*

- **These bodies have to be able to live forever to enjoy the Kingdom of God... it will be an earthly and spiritual body.... in unity and powerful!!**
- **Eternal life will look like this ...we will be bodily resurrected living on a physical recreated earth as we were originally designed ...living with God completely restored spiritually... and you know what...you are included in this if you are in Him**

- **Thank God for the Resurrection to come!! bu until then..**

- **Since he is alive ...He is present...**

MT 28:20 ... *And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

- **the end of this age...will be the beginning of the next ...that is the final big picture...**

*Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, **God’s home is now among his people!** He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be **no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.**” ⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” ⁶ And he also said, “**It is finished!** I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End.*

- **the last time Jesus said it was finished ...were his last words on the cross...it is finished the ransom from sin and death...now the end of the age...is finished...new bodies on a new earth connected to a new heaven...with God living among us...yet he is alive now with us...**

He is the present God... What is it you need? ... Jesus says I am... are you depressed?....I am your counselor... are you Afraid? ...I am your protector.... are you trapped?...I am your deliver....are you Lonely?...I am your friend... are you Sick?...I am your healer Are You unrighteous? ...Jesus says I am your righteousness Are you imperfect?...I am your perfection are you weak?...I am your strength.... are you Lost?...I am your guide are you Proud ?...I am your humbler...are you Poor?...I am your provider are you a Sinner ?...I am your Savior do you need God? ...I am here I am your all in all...I am the risen and present God

**He can mend the broken hearted.. He resurrects Hope in the hopeless....And gives resurrection Strength to the weary...He is a father to the fatherless
And provides a home for the outcast...Brings Peace to the restless...He resurrects Joy in the downcast....Gives Rest to the weary...Offers Freedom to the captive Release to those in bondage....To the broken He heals
The lost He rescues ...Washes clean the sin soaked...and He raises the dead to new life...**

So

Lets repent of our unbelief that anything dead in us can't be Resurrected and new life resurrected Ask Jesus to bring life in those dead place in us!!

end

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end

³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

The most important truth of our faith!

Job had this revelation...as he lived in his weak and diseased body...

*Job 19:25 I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.26 And after my skin has been destroyed, **yet** in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.*

And Paul tells us something else...He expounds on the depth of Resurrection...it includes all of his creation...Just as all creation was effected by the fall of man...the redemption effects all of creation...

*Romans 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been **groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

- **Interesting term ..Childbirth...the new life is waiting to be born...**
- **but there is groaning and pain associated with it...but the new life is coming...**

- the earth groans while waiting .. we groan also as we wait for the full number to come in...

Romans 8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved

- I wonder if we get a card when we get to heaven...with checks to be placed in the boxes with our desires of what we want in our resurrected body...height, full head of hair...choice of weight which will not fluctuate... it is hard to even imagine a perfect body!
- **In fact** But he adds something to it...because you and the Father are at peace I give you the promised Holy Spirit

- ...breathed the Holy Spirit into them....

JN 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

- They will never be separated from his love...and given the promised Holy Spirit

Eph 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

- for they were sealed by the Holy Spirit as a deposit guarantying their inheritance...what is our inheritance? Resurrection..

dead things...things that need to experience resurrection....

Eph 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

That power is at work in each of us right now!!! He can resurrect anything that has died... We have resurrection power...working in us...

JN 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Since he is alive ...He is present...

MT 28:20 *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- we are **people of the resurrection** is there anything to hard for Jesus?

In Revelation ...Jesus says Yes...I am coming soon...I am here now

He is the present God... What is it you need? ... Jesus says I am... are you depressed?...I am your counselor... are you Afraid? ...I am your protector.... are you trapped?...I am your deliver....are you Lonely?...I am your friend... are you Sick?...I am your healer Are You unrighteous? ...Jesus says I am your righteousness Are you imperfect?...I am your perfection

are you weak?...I am your strength.... are you Lost?...I am your guide

are you Proud ?...I am your humbler...are you Poor?...I am your provider

are you a Sinner ?...I am your Savior do you need God? ...I am here

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He can mend the broken hearted.. He resurrects Hope in the hopeless....And gives resurrection Strength to the weary...He is a father to the fatherless

And provides a home for the outcast

Brings Peace to the restless

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1. Lets repent of our unbelief that anything dead in us can't be Resurrected and new life resurrected
2. Ask Jesus to bring life in those dead place in us!!

That is what eternal life will look like.....

John 3: 16 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

- **Eternal life will look like this ...we will be physically bodily resurrected living on a physical recreated earth as we were originally designed ...living with God completely restored spiritually... and you know what...you are included in this if you are in Him**

Rev 21:1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

- **It will all be new yet familiar ...the what we love about this earth...but new and better!!!**
- **Thank God for the Resurrection to come!!**

The most important truth of our faith!

Jesus death and bodily resurrection...set the stage for Christ's' next step in the redemptive plan for humanity... to save and change

- **....all four Gospels close with post resurrection appearances, interactions, directives, and dialogues with his disciples and two close with Jesus' ascension into Heaven.**

- **Matthew's Gospel ends with Jesus acknowledging his authority over all creation, the mission for his people to carry out and the assurance of His presence with them until the age is completed....**

MT 28: 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- **Both Mark and Luke close with Jesus being taken up bodily into heaven before the eyes of his disciples...**

MK 16:19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

- **Jesus is taken up to the Father and is continually present**

LK 24:50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

- **they mistakenly believed a tomb...could hold Jesus**
- **they mistakenly believed since Jesus was not present he was also powerless..**
- **They believed that a tomb is bigger than Jesus, something can actually hold Jesus in...**
- **Sometimes there are dead places in our lives which once held life**
- **a dead place...is Anything that looks final, hopeless, dead the best I can do then is to go there disappointed, heartbroken and anoint Jesus.**
- **There can be tombs in our hearts...places where we believe Jesus cant bring life to.**
- **Habits...that we can't get victory over, attitudes, unwillingness to step out because of past failures...or hopes dashed or dreams which turn into nightmares...**

Go back to

Luke 24: 6 He is not here; he has risen

You need to know a few things...In the dead places...you need the stone rolled away and Only God can...Matthew tells us he sent an angel in this case.

a. The stone was rolled away not to let Jesus Out but to let them see in....

God has to remove that which blocks us from seeing the living God...our weakness in faith...our eyes of faith are so easily blinded...by disappointment and pain.

b. And more importantly...

c. Jesus ... power is greater than any Place of Death

i. Don't look for the living God in places that are dead

Jesus is alive ...He isn't powerless where death appears to REIGN!!

But they weren't the only ones...

LK 24:9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

- **The apostles...the A TEAM...thought it was nonsense that Jesus could actually be alive live after dying**
- **He told them he was going to rise numerous times...but they could not get their minds off of their lives and expectations, concerns, and disappointments of this current life...**
- **We often have the same problem...our spiritual understanding is filtered though our current circumstances...instead of our current circumstances filtered through the words of Jesus!!**
- **This life is passing... resurrected life is forever!!! Not the other way around!!**
- **So we pick up the narrative their response to the women ...**

JN 20: ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

- **John being a son of thunder and competitive...wants us to know two things...one he can beat peter in a foot race...and two he believe Jesus rose before peter**
- **John apparently believed Jesus rose though he did not understand...it**
- **Peter apparently did not believe..nor understand!**
- **But they would...**

Paul prayed the same thing for us...we believe ...but if were honest there are graves in our hearts that hold dead dreams...dead hopes...graves in our hearts where we have buried

disappoints with tombstones which bear the names of those who have deeply hurt us and we think we will never get past it...and sometimes even God name is on it.....

But let me tell you...

He has resurrection power in the here and now... For those of us like the women and the Apostles who believe but don't believe...Jesus has not given up on you and will accomplish all that he said!

What stone does he need to roll away so that what has died can be resurrected..in your life...

Jesus brings life to death

And light into darkness

He can mend the broken hearted..

He resurrects Hope in the hopeless

And gives resurrection Strength to the weary

He is a father to the fatherless

And provides a home for the outcast

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Eph 1:18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that **you may know the hope** to which he has called you, the riches **of his glorious inheritance** in his holy people, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength **20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead** and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

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- **Eternal life looks like this ...we will be physically bodily resurrected living on a physical recreated earth as we were originally designed ...living with God completely restored spiritually... and you know what...you are included in this if you are in Him**
- **It will all be new yet familiar ...the what we love about this earth...but new and better!!!**
- **Thank God for the Resurrection to come!!**

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

- **Just as God gave us Jesus he is going to give us everything along with him!!**
- **This creation is going to be given to us...in its perfect state!**

Eph 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

- **Pray for anyone to be included Thank you Jesus...end**

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- **It is Jesus great love for us that he overcame the power of sin by dying for us and removing our curse... ..it is the great power of his love that has made us alive ...**

Eph 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

- **How? By The physical resurrection of Jesus Christ life overcame death...**
- **in fact the cornerstone of our redemption and restoration...both for mankind and the earth and all creation is the resurrection of Jesus .**