

04172022 Easter **We live in the Saturday between salvation on Friday and Resurrection on Sunday...The Saturday on earth of life and death... but resurrection is coming!!**

It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ that 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."

There is no greater accomplishment 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 our living physical body in a physical universe on a physical earth.

- **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 resurrection...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 ... The disciples could not comprehend this..., listened to his Jesus teaching...they did not accept he would die...and by extension could not comprehend the Resurrection...

In Fact... Jesus knew this info was too much for them to grasp...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 six different times he spoke of his dying, 5 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 .. after he tells them plainly he is going he comforts them...

*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? 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?”

- *Thomas makes a statement with a question... “We have no idea where you are going” ...and we don’t know the way there? Incredible...he has told them numerous times he has come from above where his Father lives...so he tells them the way there...*

⁶ *Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*

- **A little while later he addresses their lack of asking where he is going...why would they not be interested in Heaven?**

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....Resurrection*

- **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 began to grasp the resurrection part of Jesus' plan..... Sunday morning 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 means we live in a spiritual state in heaven forever...absolutely not true**

- 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..**

- **Jesus' resurrection marks the beginning of this 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.

But there is more ...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. ...*

- **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... you are included in this if you are in Him**
 - Thank God for the Resurrection to come!! but 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 accomplished ...now the end of this 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...**

So as we live in the Saturday between Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday may we live a life in accordance with our destiny as Paul says..

*1 Thessalonians 5:23... May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our **Lord Jesus Christ comes** again²⁴ God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.*

end

Romans 8:21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

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

He is the present God... so let us close with Blessing God told Moses to have Aaron the high priest to bless the people with... given way back in the time of Moses ...as we wander in this life as foreigners...the Israelites wandered in their desert as

wanders ...and they were given this blessing by God to be given everyday as a reminders of God's thoughts toward them and his presence will be with them...

and this sums up the presence of the living resurrected Jesus in our lives...if there is more than one person in your home put your arm around them if you are solo...raise your hand to God...and we will receive the Blessing of our God ...

Numbers 6:22 Then the LORD said to Moses, ²³ “Tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people of Israel with this special blessing:

²⁴ ‘May the LORD bless you
and protect you.

²⁵ May the LORD smile on you
and be gracious to you.

²⁶ May the LORD show you his favor
and give you his peace.’

²⁷ Whenever Aaron and his sons bless the people of Israel in my name, **I myself will bless them.” end**

*****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: 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...He is a liar
- 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

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- 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