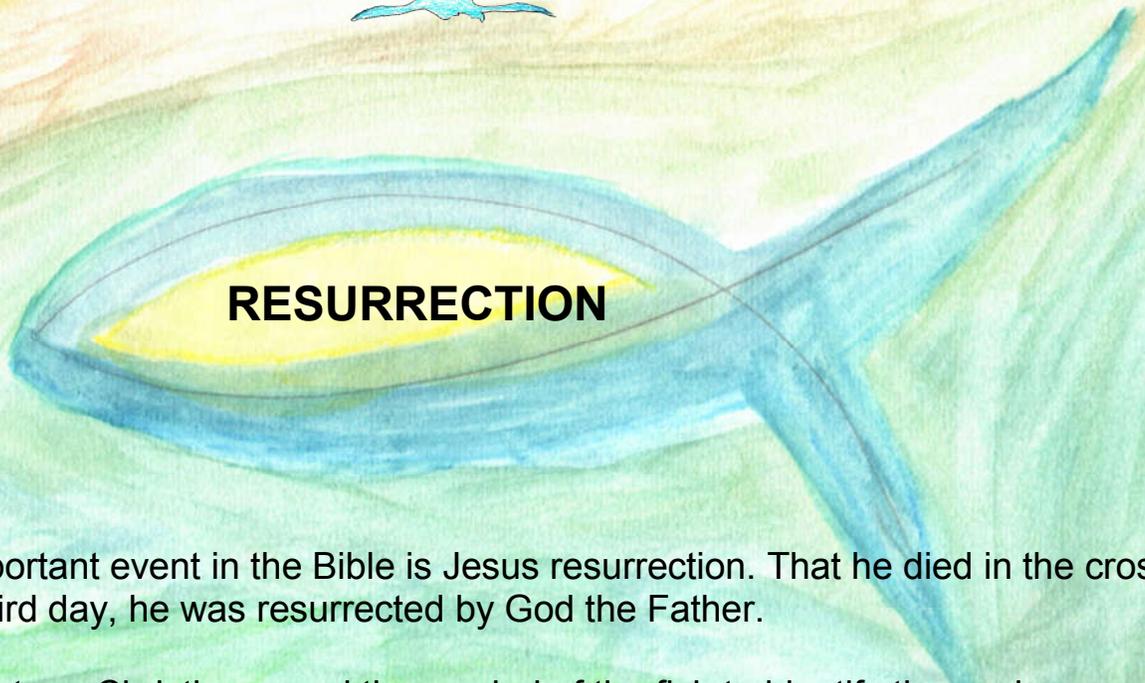




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The most important event in the Bible is Jesus resurrection. That he died in the cross and on the third day, he was resurrected by God the Father.

In the first century, Christians used the symbol of the fish to identify themselves and to confirm their identity when meeting strangers.

Jonas was a representation of Jesus resurrection. Because he was inside the belly of the whale for three days, and coming out alive by the power of God.

These early Christians were primarily Jewish, and some of them were witnesses to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. They were dispersed through out Asia after his resurrection. Guided by The Holy Spirit, they preached the gospel of Jesus to all who listened. They were under constant danger and persecution during the first century. They were literally on the run.



As a precautionary measure, when believers met they drew one half Arc of the fish silhouette as a confirmation sign. If the stranger completed the other half arc, completing the figure of a fish, then each other was assured that they were believers IN CHRIST, the one true Messiah who died and resurrected (like Jonas out of the whales belly) on the third day.

The promises of God in Abraham had been fulfilled, but the Jewish leaders in the Sanhedrin had failed to recognize their promised messiah in his coming.

Jesus' Resurrection Gospel was a game changer. It confronted the Jewish Sanhedrin leaders and their power structure around the Jerusalem Temple.

In the new gospel of Grace, anyone who listened to the words of the apostles and their disciples, and believed, could attain salvation IN CHRIST by Faith alone.

A salvation not by obeying (as much as they could) the written Law of the Patriarchs and the Prophets, but salvation in another way, by BELIEVING The Word Of God, The Verb Of God, Jesus.



These are the Good News of the New Covenant: that Christ purchased all of us. **OUR RANSOM WAS PAID IN FULL WITH HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD!** In the Torah this is called redemption, when a bonded slave was redeemed from the obligation to serve his master for seven years, and then at the end of the seventh year he was freed from all debt. They call it The Law of the Jubilee.

Under the Mosaic Law, in the old covenant, sin has to be punished; debt has to be paid **IN FULL**. It really becomes our debt to God, and he demands that **HIS JUSTICE** be satisfied **FULLY**, because **HE IS RIGHTEOUS**.

I'll use the following analogy to explain the legal concept: If God were a man, and he went and took a loan from you, he would pay you back as agreed, every penny. He would fulfill his oath to you fully. Because he **IS RIGHTEOUS**. He can not deceive you, a man to his words, honest and trustworthy. Even as **HE IS** the great **I AM**, the Omnipotent **GOD**, and has the power to overcome you, and you as a mortal man can not force him to pay you, still **HE IS RIGHTEOUS** and he will pay you **IN FULL**. God is not a man that he would lie. Then, in the same manner, if we as men incurred in Sin, we become debtors to **THE LAW**, then we must pay our debt **IN FULL**, by death, as the Mosaic Law ordains.

But Jesus changed that. He fulfilled the Law for us at the Cross. By substituting us as the perfect Lamb of God, he paid our debt. He took our place, and now all we have to do **IS BELIEVE**.

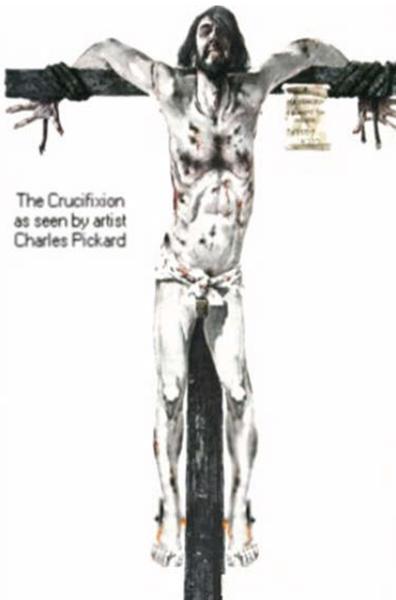
When we believe, we are saved because HE took our place in the sin expiation sacrifice, becoming our Passover sacrificial lamb, fulfilling THE MOSAIC LAW completely. You as a Christian must know this by heart, before Jesus came, everyone was under the Law Of Moses, The Old Covenant.

THE LAW REQUIRED A BLOOD SACRIFICE

There is no expiation of sin without the shedding of blood.

The Apostle Paul explains this In Hebrews 10:1-10,
For it is written;

10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2: For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3: But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4: For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. 5: Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7: Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8: Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. KJV



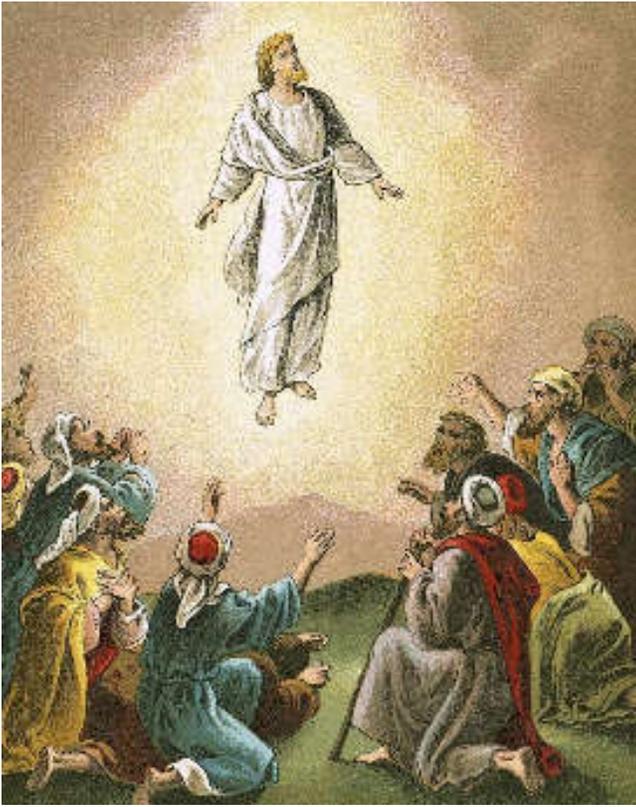
The Crucifixion
as seen by artist
Charles Pickard

Jesus offered himself voluntarily as a blood sacrifice. He chose to be crucified, to take our place and put OUR SINS over himself. He left his position in heaven, his Glory next to The Father, and became The Son Of Man. The suffering servant in Isaiah 53.

For it is written in *Isaiah 53:4-5* ;

4: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5: But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. KJV

This is the truth that saves. Jesus died and was resurrected by the power of God.



We ARE NOW saved because HIS SACRIFICE was accepted by God. The Resurrection of Jesus is proof that he pleased The Father in heaven. And because God the Father was pleased, HE RESURRECTED HIS SON FROM DEATH. HIS JUSTICE was satisfied by the shedding of the Lambs Blood. Jesus WAS RESURRECTED by THE POWER OF GOD The Father, and so are we, when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior!

The fact that Jesus came back to life IS THE CONFIRMATION by God the Father that WE HAVE ALSO BEEN FORGIVEN IN CHRIST. Because as Jesus resurrected, then SO HAVE WE been resurrected from death IN HIM. He took us all in his death, and he lifted us up in his resurrection. THIS IS THE MEANING and IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM.

HIS resurrection not only marked the beginning of a new covenant relationship with God the Father, but IT PROCLAIMS JESUS' VICTORY OVER DEATH. NOW a new covenant is established IN HIS BLOOD and Victory is proclaimed by his taking away the keys of death from the evil one, forever. Jesus conquered death and now offers Eternal Life IN HIM. For those who hear his voice and BELIEVE.

So resurrection is by all means the greatest event over all the known universes. It's a cosmological supernova that affected all the strongholds in the air, in the galaxies, in the hidden depths of our planet.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

Believers should and must understand the true meaning of Baptism. That we die and resurrect TOGETHER WITH CHRIST.

For it is written in *Romans 6:1-11*;

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may abound? 2 May it never be! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who were immersed into Messiah Yeshua were immersed into His death?

All, the apostle Paul writes, ALL who believe ARE immersed into death. We die together with Jesus our Messiah in the cross. We die to the LAW, and because of our death IN CHRIST, we are dead to sin also.



4 Therefore we were buried together with Him through immersion into death—in order that just as Messiah was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become joined together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also will be joined together in His resurrection—

Therefore Paul writes, *For if we have become joined together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also will be joined together in His resurrection—*

WE are resurrected together with Christ in the immersion, in the Baptism.

6 knowing our old man was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be done away with, so we no longer serve sin. 7 For he who has died is set free from sin.



Here again the power of resurrection is the power that has freed us from sin. The Law will always declare us sinners. But one we die, the Law written in stone has no more power over us. Once we resurrect IN CHRIST through Baptism, the Law of the Spirit is engraved INTO our minds and spirits. This spiritual Law is the Law of the New Covenant IN CHRIST.

8 Now if we have died with Messiah, we believe that we shall also live with Him. 9 We know that Messiah, having been raised from the dead, no longer dies; death no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. 11 So also continually count yourselves both dead to sin and alive to God in Messiah Yeshua.

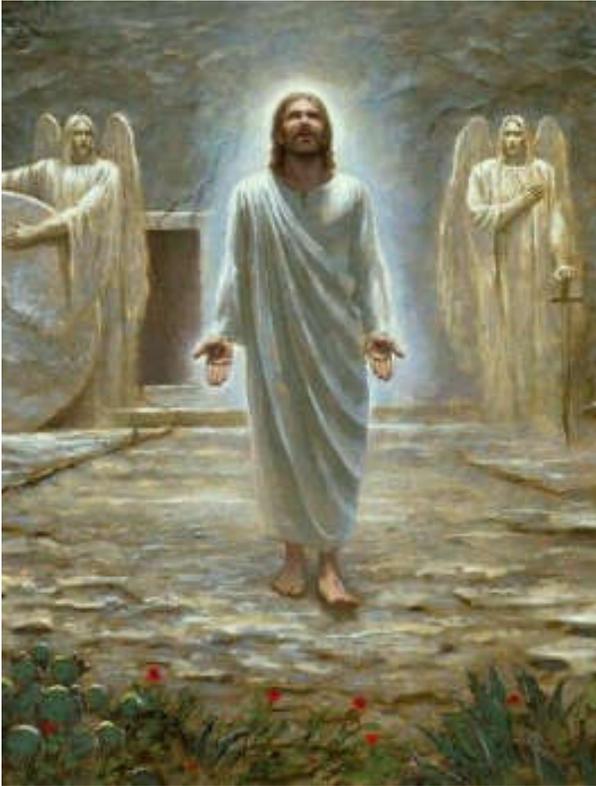
Therefore, when we baptize, we are joined in Christ's resurrection. Then we both dead to sin and alive to God In our Lord Jesus, our Messiah.

Death has no power over us IN CHRIST.

When was the last time you heard this on the radio? On the TV? On your Sunday bible study? From your church pulpit?

This is the main message that should be occupying us today. To teach and preach about Christ's' victory over death and that HE IS COMING BACK! This is the Gospel of Grace, of the unmerited favor of God over us IN CHRIST.

The Apostle Paul best expresses the importance of the resurrection when he wrote in 1Corinthians 15.



For it is written; let's read;

12 Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how is it that [a]some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 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 vain [useless, amounting to nothing], and your faith is also vain [imaginary, unfounded, devoid of value and benefit—not based on truth].

15 We are even discovered to be false witnesses [misrepresenting] God, because we testified concerning Him that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised, either; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless and powerless [mere delusion]; you are still in your sins [and under the control and penalty of sin]. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

19 If we who are [abiding] in Christ have hoped only in this life [and this is all there is], then we are of all people most miserable and to be pitied.

Footnotes: 1 Corinthians 15:12
Perhaps these were converted Sadducees, who as a sect denied the possibility of a resurrection (Acts 23:8). Amplified Bible (AMP) Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA 90631. All rights reserved.

Paul wrote *"and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain [useless, amounting to nothing], and your faith is also vain [imaginary, unfounded, devoid of value and benefit—not based on truth]."*

If Christ did not rise from death, if the resurrection was a lie, then our faith is a lie.

Today WE should be proclaiming his resurrection ardently, with Joy and hope. Are you sharing this? Is your church preaching his resurrection?

Beloved body of Christ, we are living in extraordinary times! This is it! Our Lord Jesus Christ is coming very soon. Old Testament prophecy is being fulfilled today, exactly as the Bible said it would. Are you sharing this? Is your church preaching his imminent return?

As the end of this age approaches, so evil increases in the hearts of men. The world is becoming one, as in the tower of Babel. The world hates God and his Son Jesus. And they are fighting the gospel with a combination of deceptions, science and half truths.

The Bible is the foundation and moral compass of society. At least, till the beginning of the 20th century. Today schools and universities are teaching evolution theories and malevolent transgender policies as the new standard that provides equality and inclusion for all. They say it is the democratic way, the way of the world.

The foundation of Judeo-Christian Faith is Christ, the Son of the Living God. That he substituted us in the cross and took our punishment on him. And that he resurrected and is now alive, victorious. This foundation IS UNDER ATTACK, a satanic assault on all fronts. We are the first line of defense, our witnessing. It is our time to prophesy HIS RETURN, with the power of his resurrection.



The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the center and rock of our Faith. As such we owe it to our children to know and understand it fully. This has to be done in our homes, in our churches. It begins with right preaching, teaching Jesus as the center of our daily lives.

And I say our children because they will be alive facing the end of days tribulation.

Let's look on how the first Apostles and Disciples gave witness of his resurrection in the first century.

Let's read how Paul preached about resurrection in

1Corinthians 15:1-4;

15 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Paul's' priority was declaring Christ resurrection, *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.* In this testimony lies THE RESURRECTION POWER OF GOD. This is the first matter of business when Paul preached to the Jews first and then to the Greeks.

No other belief has any value other than to know about life after death. And death is a certainty.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.

In [Ephesians 1:19-23](#), [Ephesians 2:1-10](#), The Apostle Paul illustrates how the power of God operates in the renewing and saving of believers; and the leading sentiment is, that the same power is evident in that which was required to raise up the Lord Jesus from the dead, and to exalt him over the universe.

The ultimate test and legal proof that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true, and that God is righteous and commands over all life and death; is the resurrection of Christ.

For it is written in [Ephesians 1:19-23](#)



19 And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, 20 Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places], 21 Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come. 22 And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church],⁽¹⁾ 23 Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].

For it is written in [Ephesians 2:1-10](#).

2:10 For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), [4] recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

A believer is born again in the instant Christ was resurrected. This happens yesterday, today and tomorrow. This is a perfect example of the power of Christ Resurrection. Of the implications that don't fit our traditional understanding of time.

We are RECREATED in Christ Jesus, a new creation, born again, thanks to his death and resurrection 2000 years ago. THAT IS POWER.



WHEN WE BELIEVE, THE POWER OF RESURRECTION IS MANIFESTED IN US!

This same resurrection power is exercised every time a sinner repents and joins the family of God. He is literally awakened, quickened TO LIFE, sealed in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. He IS RESURRECTED jointly with Christ. This is manifested and proclaimed when we are immersed in the living waters of Baptism. AMEN and Halleluiah!

THE POWER OR RESURRECTION IS THE POWER OF SALVATION

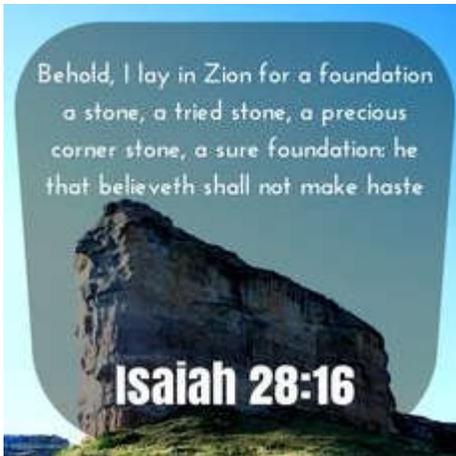
For it is written in Romans 10:5-13;

5 For Moses writes that the man who [can] practice the righteousness (perfect conformity to God's will) which is based on the Law [with all its intricate demands] shall live by it. 6 But the righteousness based on faith [imputed by God and bringing right relationship with Him] says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into Heaven? that is, to bring Christ down; 7 Or who will descend into the abyss? that is, to bring Christ up from the dead [as if we could be saved by our own efforts].



8 But what does it say? The Word (God's message in Christ) is near you, on your lips and in your heart; that is, the Word (the message, the basis and object) of faith which we preach, 9 Because if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved.**

10 For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation.



11 The Scripture says, No man who believes in Him [who adheres to, relies on, and trusts in Him] will [ever] be put to shame or be disappointed.

12 [No one] for there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. The same Lord is Lord over all [of us] and He generously bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him [in faith]. 13 For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord [invoking Him as Lord] will be saved.

AMP Bible

Because of the power of his resurrection, we are now saved by Faith.

Resurrection means to come back from being dead. To take mud and spit on it and become a living human being again, from inert matter, lifeless, from a corrupted and decaying body made whole anew again. From nothing to something IN CHRIST.

The miracle of miracles. The one thing that is against all science. It is impossible for man. This is the ultimate test of faith, that we will die and resurrect someday, when he returns. Alleluia!



This is the manifest power of the ONE TRUE GOD. And is the same power exercised in every one of us WHEN WE BELIEVE and return to him.

We are jointly resurrected with Christ 2000 years ago. So today we can say most certainly that WE ARE ALREADY SAVED IN CHRIST.



Amen and Amen.

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