

May 18 2014

MORE THAT JUST FACT  
Romans 1: 3-4; 4: 25; Acts 17: 31  
I Corinthians 15: 19-20

**When** it comes to believing the Bible, it means more than just believing the **FACTS** stated. **Take** the **DEATH** of Christ, for instance. **Believing** in the **DEATH** of Christ is more than just believing in the **FACT** that He died. **Who** did He die for? **Why** did He die? **Why** was His death necessary? **What** did His death accomplish? **These** are all things you must understand if you (truly) believe in the death of Christ.

**Today** we are going to apply that reasoning to the Resurrection of Christ. **The** resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is a **FACT**. **It is** a **HISTORIC** fact. **It is** a **BIBLICAL** fact. **It is** a **GOSPEL** fact. **But**, it is so much more than (just) **FACT**. **In our** lesson today we will consider some things **DECLARED** by the resurrection of Christ. **These** are things that will take us **BEYOND** the fact.

**First**, though I want us to (briefly) consider the fact. **I don't** want to spend a lot of time on this because most (professing) Christians believe (adamantly) that Christ was raised from the dead. **History** records the **FACT** of Christ's resurrection. **It is** a **HISTORICAL** fact.

**Christ's** resurrection is, also, a **BIBLICAL** fact. **Look** at Acts 2: 22-24 "**Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.**"

**It was NECESSARY** for Christ to go the Cross. **It was NECESSARY** that He die. **But**, it was not **POSSIBLE** that death should hold Him. **Christ's** resurrection is a **BIBLICAL** fact.

**Christ's** resurrection is a **GOSPEL** fact. **Look** at I Corinthians 15: 12 "**Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?**"

**Apparently** some in the Church at Corinth were questioning whether there was a bodily resurrection. **Paul** affirms that there is by affirming Christ's resurrection.

**Look** at I Corinthians 15: 13-15 "**But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:**

**14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.**

**15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.**

**To preach** the resurrection of Christ but deny the (bodily) resurrection of those in Him is a contradiction. **Christ's** resurrection is **PROOF** that there is a resurrection. **Christ** was raised,

but not as a private person. **He** was raised as a Representative, which means that ALL who die in Him will be raised. **Christ's** resurrection is the SUBSTANCE of Gospel preaching; **not** just the FACT of His resurrection; **but**, what it means that He was raised.

**Look at I Corinthians 15:16-18 “For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:**

**17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.**

**18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.”**

**Again**, to deny the (bodily) resurrection of sinners is to deny Christ's resurrection. **And**, that makes the Gospel a ðvainö (empty and worthless) message. **It leaves** believing without any substance. **It means** that those who die in Christ die without hope.

**Look at I Corinthians 15: 19-20 “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.**

**20 ¶ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”**

**If this** life is all we have, (i.e. if there is no life beyond/no bodily resurrection), then, those of us who believe the Gospel are most miserable. **But**, thankfully, that is NOT the case. **Christ** was raised from the dead. **And**, He is the ðfirstfruitsö; He is the forerunner of all who die in Him. **Christ's** resurrection is a Gospel FACT.

**It is** easy to see that Christ's resurrection is an established FACT. **It is** a Historical/Biblical/Gospel FACT. **But**, it is MORE, (so much more), than JUST fact. **Christ** was raised again ðaccording to the scripturesö.

**Look at 1 Corinthians 15: 1-4 “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:”**

**Christ** rose again ðaccording to the scripturesö. **The** scriptures have much more to say about Christ's resurrection than the MERE fact of it. **Christ's** resurrection is a DECLARATION from God.

**Today** we will consider four things that the scriptures (clearly) show Christ's resurrection to DECLARE. **These** are (scriptural) truths DECLARED (specifically) by Christ's resurrection. **They** take us beyond the FACT that

Christ was raised to WHO was raised, WHY He was raised, and WHAT His resurrection means for those who rest their hope of eternity in Him ALONE.

**FIRST**, Christ's resurrection DECLARES Him to be the ðSon of God with powerö.

Look at Romans 1: 1-4 “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

Christ’s resurrection from the dead DECLARES that He is the Son of God; **and**, it DELCARES that He is the Son of God WITH POWER. **I think** these are two related (but separate) things. Let’s look at them that way.

**First**, what about Christ’s resurrection DECLARES, Him to be the Son of God? **Christ** went to the Cross bearing the sins (the Legal guilt) of those He was given. **He** went there to suffer the Just punishment His sheep deserved. **This** punishment is infinite. “**The wages of sin is death** - ETERNAL death. **Infinite** punishment is required because God is INFINITE.

**Only** One who is God, (One whose sacrifice had infinite value), could bear that penalty that punishment and live to tell about it. **Only** One who is God could make an end of sins. **Only** One who is God could satisfy God’s inflexible justice.

No sinner who dies in his/her sins will ever satisfy God’s demand for punishment. **That** is why their separation from God is eternal. **They** can never make an end of sins; because they can never make the payment required.

**God** raised Christ from the dead because His justice was satisfied and because the Righteousness by which He justifies had been established. **Christ’s** obedience unto death had accomplished both. **That** is how Christ’s resurrection DECLARES Him to be the Son of God.

**Next**, how does Christ’s resurrection DECLARE Him to be the Son of God WITH POWER?

**Christ** has always been a Person of ðpowerö. **He is** the Eternal Word with omnipotent (unlimited) ðpowerö.

Look at John 1: 1-3 “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

2 **The same was in the beginning with God.**

3 **All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**”

**Christ**, (the eternal WORD), created everything. **Not** only did He create everything, He also UPHOLDS everything. **By** Him all things ðconsistö (i.e. They are held together.)

Look at Colossians 1: 15-17 “**Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:**

16 **For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:**

17 **And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**”

**Not only** is Christ the Eternal WORD with the ðpowerö to create and uphold all things, when He walked on the earth (as God-man), He was given ðpowerö. **He** had the ðpowerö of God. **He** was given the Spirit ðwithout measureö. **He** performed 100ø of miracles to prove this ðpowerö. **And**, we could look at many examples.

**But**, look at Luke 4:36 “**And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.**”

**Not only** was Christ given the ðpowerö (of miracles), He also, gave this ðpowerö to His disciples.

Look at Luke 9: 1-2 “**Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.**

**2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.”**

**What** Iøm showing here is that Christ has always been a Person of great ðpowerö. **But** the ðpowerö spoken of in our text is a DIFFERENT ðpowerö.

Look back at Romans 1: 4 “**And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:**”

**This** is SPECIFIC ðpowerö. **This** is ðpowerö which Christ EARNED by the work He finished. **It** is the ðpowerö of life (Not just to HAVE live but to GIVE life).

Look at I Corinthians 15: 45. “**And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.**”

**The** first Adam was made a living soul. **But**, Christ (the last Adam) was ðmade a quickening (life giving) spiritö. **By** His obedience unto death; by the righteousness He established, Christ EARNED the right to give eternal life to every sinner whose salvation His Father entrusted to Him.

Look at John 17: 1-2 “**These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:**

**2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.**”

**This** is the ðpowerö REVEALED and DECLARED by Christø resurrection from the dead. **The** FIRST thing DECLARED by Christø resurrection: **It** DECLARED Him to be the Son of God; the Infinite I Am; with the POWER to give (eternal) life to as many as He has been given.

**The** SECOND thing Christø resurrection DECLARES is: **That** by His obedience unto death He accomplished EVERYTHING necessary for the Justification of His people.

Look at Romans 4: 23-25 “**Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;**

**24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;**

**25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.**

**NO SINNER** Christ died for will perish. **His** resurrection **DECLARES** that. **He** was raised again because He had accomplished everything necessary for the justification of **EVERY** sinner whose offences He bore on the Cross. **He** went to the Cross bearing **THEIR** offences. **And**, He was raised again because He had answered all the charges against **THEM**. **He** was raised again because He had established the (one) righteousness **THEY** needed to stand eternally righteous in God's sight. **God** is just to declare them so by Christ's righteousness imputed.

**The THIRD** thing **DECLARED** by Christ's resurrection is: **That** His righteousness is God's **STANDARD** of Judgment.

**Look** at Acts 17: 29-31 **“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.**

**30** **And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:**

**31** **Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.**”

**The** prophet Daniel foretold that Christ would make an end of sins and bring in everlasting righteousness. **Christ's** resurrection from the dead is a **DECLARATION** from God that He **FULFILLED** that prophecy; **that** He finished that work.

**Christ's** resurrection from the dead is a **DECLARATION** from God that the righteousness established by Christ's obedience unto death is God's **STANDARD** of judgment. **I.e.** You will stand before God and be counted (unchangeably) righteous based on Christ's righteousness accounted/imputed to you. **Or**, you will stand (forever) condemned under God's eternal wrath because you have no righteousness that answers the demands of God's holy law and inflexible justice.

**Here** is a question for all who have heard (and understood) God's Gospel: **“Has** the Gospel changed your **STANDARD** of judgment? **Do** you (now) judge (salvation) by a **DIFFERENT** Standard than you did **BEFORE** you heard the Gospel and God's **STANDARD**? **Do** you **NOW** judge by Christ's righteousness imputed **ALONE**? **That** is **STANDARD** (Declared) by Christ's resurrection.

**The FOURTH** thing **DECLARED** by Christ's resurrection is **HOPE**; **HOPE** for all who are in Him. **This** is **HOPE** (the **ONLY** hope) for sinners who deserve nothing but God's eternal wrath and judgment.

**Look** at 1 Corinthians 15: 19-20 **“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.**

**20 ¶** **But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.** **Christ** is the firstfruits (the forerunner) of all who die **IN HIM**. **In the** Mosaic Economy the firstfruits were an indication of the harvest. **Representatively**, God's people are already partakers of Christ, the firstfruits.

Look at Ephesians 2: 4-7 **“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

**7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”**

**Representatively**, God has ðquickened usö (made us alive). He has ðraised us up. He has ðmade us sit together in heavenly places in Christö. **And**, He has done all this in order that at the appointed time, He will raise us up and give us new (spiritual) bodies. **Christ’s** resurrection is a GUARANTEE of the resurrection of EVERY sinner who is found in Him. **This** ðcorruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortalityö (I Cor 15: 53).

Look at John 6: 37-40 **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**

**39 And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.**

**40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”**

**This** is the confidence of every believing sinner. **Not** the confidence of being one of God’s elect. **But**, the confidence that Christ will MOST CERTAINLY raise up every sinner He was given; every sinner He died for. **This** is the will of the Father. **And**, because of Christ’s work ALONE, it cannot fail to happen. **Our** confidence is that Christ will do the will of His Father concerning those He was given.

**The CERTAINTY** of this resurrection is the motivation for the life believers live out on the earth AFTER our spiritual regeneration and conversion.

Look at Colossians 3:1-2 **“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

**2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”**

**3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.**

**I.e. If you** see yourselves saved and kept by the doing and dying of Christ ALONE, act accordingly. **Nothing** in this life can change the STANDING of a sinner whom God has put in Christ.

Look at Galatians 6: 14-16 **“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.**

**15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.**

**16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.”**

**The** world is crucified to every sinner in Christ by His doing and dying ALONE. **We** are crucified to the world when we learn of His work on our behalf and rest our whole salvation in Him.

**The** Bible speaks of peace and proclaims mercy to those who see the resurrection of Christ as MORE THAN JUST FACT. **They** walk by a DIFFERENT rule; the Gospel rule. **And**, they (alone) are the Israel of God.

**Many** (professing) Christians believe the FACT of Christ's resurrection. **They** look at passages like Romans 10 and find confidence that they are saved.

Look at Romans 10: 8-11 **“The word (of faith) is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;**

**9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

**10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

**11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”**

**The EMPHASIS** is confessing the Lord Jesus. **It is** confessing the God-man recorded in the scriptures. **It is** confessing the salvation that is conditioned on and accomplished by His doing and dying ALONE. It is confessing God glorified in salvation ONLY by His righteousness imputed ALONE.

**The EMPHASIS** is believing ON HIM. **This** is MORE than trusting in a historical Jesus. **It is** MORE than believing the FACT of His resurrection. **I.e.** **It** is more than just believing that God raised a dead body to life. **It is** believing that Christ was raised according to the scriptures.

**And**, the scriptures show Christ's resurrection to be a DECLARATION from God. **By** His resurrection from the dead, Christ is DECLARED:

1. **To be** the Son of God (the Infinite I Am), with power to give eternal life to every sinner He was given.
2. **To have** accomplished everything necessary for God to Justify (declare eternally righteous) His chosen people.
3. **To have** established God's STANDARD of Judgment.
4. **To be** the HOPE of eternal life to all who die IN HIM.

**May** God enable His people to see beyond the FACT of Christ's resurrection to those things the scriptures clearly show His resurrection to DECLARE.

by Mark Pannell