**Importance and Benefits of the Resurrection**

**Introduction, Luke 24:1-11.** This time of year, and today especially, many are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Though we are not commanded to celebrate His resurrection in any sort of special way (we are instructed to remember and memorialize His death through the partaking of the Lord’s Supper, cf. 22:14-20), I am glad that so many remember this event, for it truly is of eternal importance. So let’s consider *the importance of the resurrection* and *its benefits* this morning…

**The Importance of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

* Proved Jesus was *“the Son of God,”* Rom.1:4; because,
* He predicted it (with His *betrayal* and *crucifixion*), John 2:18-22; Luke 24:6-8.
* Without His *resurrection,* His *life* and *death* would have been meaningless (in terms of eternal consequence), 1Cor.15:17. His resurrection is ALL important!

**The Benefits of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

As you may have noticed from our introductory text from Luke, there are virtually no descriptive details of the resurrection itself, only the aftermath. While many witnessed the *resurrected Christ* (cf. 1Cor.15:5-8), NONE witnessed the actual *resurrection…* only its *results.*

When the two *Marys* (*Magdalene* and *Mary the mother of James*)*, Joanna,* and the *other women* reported the *empty tomb,* and thus Jesus’ resurrection to *“the eleven and to all the rest,”* Luke 24:11 records that *“these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.”* Then later, Jesus appeared to two men (on the road to Emmaus, cf. Luke 24:13ff), and when they realized *who* He was after He had departed from them, they, too, reported His resurrection to *the eleven*, but they still *did not believe* until He appeared to them also, Mark 16:13-14. So?

* **Unless one/we *believe* Jesus was raised from the dead (and thus proved to be the Son of God and Messiah), it is of *NO BENEFIT* to us, 1Cor.15:12-19.**
* **But if we *believe* Jesus was resurrected, then we also *know* ALL will be resurrected too, 1Cor.15:20-28; John 2:19-29.** Without Christ’s resurrection, there would be no afterlife. But because of Christ’s *resurrection,* we know *all* will be resurrected, John 5:28-29a. However, just because all will be resurrected does NOT mean *all will be saved by His resurrection…*
* **Jesus resurrection only benefits those who *die* (spiritually) *with Him* and *live* (spiritually *resurrected*) *with Him,* Rom.6:1-11.** Note carefully that in order to receive the intended benefit of *eternal salvation,* one must:
* Become *dead to sin,* v.2
* By being *baptized into His death,* v.3
* And thus *buried with Him,* are *raised* (our own *spiritual resurrection*) *with Him,* v.4a
* To *walk in newness of life,* vv.4b-7.

Thus *freed from sin* by becoming *dead to sin* and being *raised/resurrected together with Christ,* we must *walk/live in newness of life* as *“instruments of righteousness to God” under grace,* vv.8-14.

But what if we don’t *die to sin,* or aren’t *buried* and *raised with Christ,* and don’t *walk in newness of life?* Does Christ’s *resurrection* provide any benefit? It does NOT, for *“the outcome of those things is death,”* vv.21b,23a!

Thus, Christ’s resurrection ONLY benefits those who are *resurrected with Him!*

**Conclusion, Phil.3:7-11.**

To receive the intended *benefit* of salvation from Christ’s resurrection, we must:

* Be willing to *“count all things”* (everything else) as *“loss,”* vv.7-8
* Be *“found in Him”* at His return, v.9
* And *“know Him and the* ***power of His resurrection*** *and the fellowship of His suffering, being* ***conformed to His death,”*** v.10
* In order to *“attain”* our own *“resurrection from among the dead,”* v.11.

Simply put, this means unless we are truly ***resurrected with Jesus*** in these ways, His resurrection doesn’t benefit us at all. We can celebrate His resurrection all we want, but it only truly becomes meaningful to us *spiritually* if we **are raised with Him!** So, **are you?** Have **you** become *dead to sin* but *alive through Christ* by baptism and living a *resurrected life?*