

HC Q&A 45 – Why was the resurrection so critical?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: One of the most wonderful things that the earth has ever seen was Christ's glorious resurrection 荣耀的复活. If you saw Christ's resurrection, you would have been in total amazement. Your mouth would have dropped. It would have been all over Facebook and social media if it happened today. But Christ's resurrection was much more than a stunning act. His resurrection was more remarkable to you because through his resurrection you received essential blessings for your present existence and future experience. You'll hear today about Christ's resurrection benefits for you.

Our headings are:

- 1. You gain Righteousness or Justification 称义**
- 2. You gain a Renewed Life or Sanctification 成圣**
- 3. You gain Resurrection or Glorification**

Our goals are: **That being reminded of the rich benefits of Christ's resurrection to you, that you will embrace them more and serve him better.**

45 Q. HOW DOES CHRIST'S RESURRECTION BENEFIT US? A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the **righteousness** he won for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already now **resurrected** to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious **resurrection**.

You Gain Righteousness or Justification by his Resurrection

1. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead to show his full power over death. Through his resurrection, death lost its sting. Sin brought physical and spiritual death. **Jesus Christ took on sin in his body and soul, paid the price of it, and then rose up from it. He pulled out death's sting.** (Ill: A wasp has a potent sting, but if you removed the sting, it becomes harmless. You can even play with it.) **Every ounce of the sting of death was on Christ when he was on the cross as the infinite God man.** While he was fully human, he was also Divine. This meant that he could take the sins of the world. Christ's death had infinite value 无限价值. All who believe in him had their sting in him.

1Corinthians 15:56 The **sting of death is sin**, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So because Christ took your sting, **death no longer has dominion over you**. He fulfilled the covenant of grace. This is why physical death does not put fear in Christians.

1Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ is not risen, **your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!** 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 20 But **now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

2. Because of Christ's resurrection you are then free of all sins and declared righteous by your heavenly Father. Now someone might say: "I wasn't born yet, how could Jesus Christ take the sting 刺 of my sin?" Answer: God is not limited by time as you are. God sees everything as if it were happening at the same time, so counting the sting the sting on Christ as yours is not hard for God. And then he counted Christ resurrection as your resurrection. Since Christ took your punishment, the Father declares you clean.

Romans 4: 23 Now it was **not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed 算为 to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,** 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

This means you never have to die, you never can die spiritually, and you can never be separated from God. You see, whatever you Covenant Keeper acquired, he put to your account. If Adam had passed his test, you would have been confirmed forever. Your second Adam, Jesus, passed the test, and so you are secured forever.

3. Now even though you are declared被宣称为**righteous, you will still feel the effects of sin.** Remember, justification is a judicial 法律上 declaration that you are free from sin. God sees the end-product of your life as he is not bound by time. **You see the Ikea box, but the Lord sees it all assembled.** You see your life as the jigsaw pieces, but God sees it all assembled and on the wall.

4. What about those today, like some in the United Church of Canada, who do not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead? It is madness to say you are a Christian but not believe in the resurrection. That is evidence of an empty faith 信心...and evidence that you are still in your sins. In fact, the Apostle Paul says that **if you don't believe in the resurrection, you are pathetic 可怜.** (1Corinthians 15) You deserve pity. But the reason many people don't feel the need to believe in the resurrection is because they have **come up with an alternative means of salvation. On such means is called the Moral Influence Theory 道德影响论.** This theory states that Christ came to set a good example for his people to follow. This popular teaching today comes at the expense of teaching about the resurrection. This theory teaches about caring for the sick, feeding the poor, giving till it hurts, being willing to die for others, and eating fish, nuts, and berries regularly. The argument runs something like this: If Jesus did it, and he was the best, therefore I should do it and I will be the best and I will feel good for doing it. The Moral Influence Theory sacrifices the resurrection. It seeks to gain righteousness by doing right things, rather than receiving Christ's perfect obedience and death as man's own.

You Gain a Renewed Life or Sanctification by his Resurrection

1. Because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, you not only have his righteousness credited to归算入**your account, you now have a renewed life.** And this was necessary. After all, what sense would it make if you were given the credit of Christ's righteousness (declared justified) but did not have new life to enjoy what Christ did for you? **You can say that you have been resurrected from the spiritual dead. This is your first resurrection. Your sins were nailed to the cross and you bear them no more!**

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, **because of His great love** with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and **raised us up together**, and made us **sit together in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus,

2. The Apostle Paul encouraged you, based on your spiritual resurrection in Jesus Christ, that you work showing you understand the greatness of your new life. At the end of 1Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul showed where sanctification ultimately led.

1Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely;** and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless **at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

3. What is the implication for you now that you have new life?

Colossians 3: 1 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth. 3 **For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.** 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then **you also will appear with Him in glory.**

As on with new life, don't live like a refugee begging for a place to live and for the means of living. Live like a prince. Claim God's promises. Enjoy the hope. Enjoy the peace. Live in his love. Spread the spiritual wealth 属灵富裕. Don't let sin conquer you! Use your spiritual weapons to fight. When Christ was raised, he went to heaven, when you were raised you were put in heavenly places. (Eph 2)

You gain Resurrection or Glorification by his Resurrection

1. If you received Christ's righteousness (justification), and even if you enjoyed a renewed life in this

world (sanctification), you then wait for heaven (glorification). If there were no glorification, men would want to live wickedly, purely seeking their own pleasure and profit. But now, **you are assured, because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, that you too will be gloriously raised from the dead after you die.** Call this your 2nd resurrection.

2. Consider some details of the benefits that come to you in the 2nd resurrection because of Christ's resurrection. Even your body will be restored and gloriously renewed. There will be no more sickness, and no more pain. And your mind will be renewed. There will be no sadness or worries any more. You can cry: "Lord, when might I come home?"

1Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you 可以得着不能损坏 不能耗尽 不能衰残 为你们存留在天上的基业; 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

While the 1st Adam failed to secure Paradise for you, Jesus Christ, the 2nd Adam, earned heaven for you. You were united with him, so what he achieved you can have as well. Faith, by which you receive your justification, sanctification, and glorification, is such a powerful有能力 thing!

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3. The guarantee确保 you have of your resurrection is from one who has the ability to do what he promised. He is quite unlike the air conditioner salesman who gives you a warranty for 10 years but only remains in business for 3, until he changes his company's name. Jesus Christ has the power to lay down his life and to take it up again. What he said he will do. You can trust his word!

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

How sad for the Sadducees who reject the resurrection altogether. They are most pitiable. They live only for this life. There are many such people today who need to learn of the resurrection.

Conclusion:

You were united in Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. So your loving Father credited what Jesus Christ achieved. By his resurrection **you are credited with justification** and declared righteous. **You were credited with sanctification**, resulting in a renewed life. **You were credited with your own resurrection** after death so you can enter into glory.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus paid it all for you. With these rich benefits from Christ's resurrection, are you thankful for them? When was the last time you stopped and said: "Thank you Lord for saving me?" Then live victoriously and fulfill your responsibilities 责任 knowing that you will never have to worry about your sins. And when you struggle with sin, sickness, worries, and indifference, confess your sin and receive Christ's forgiveness. Don't sweep sin under the carpet.

Finally: If you are not a Christian and you reject Christ's resurrection, I pity you! I pity you because I know you will have to suffer and die for your sins...in the worst possible way. But my love for you...and more importantly...the Lord's love for the world says that if you knock and invite him, he will come in and have fellowship with you forever. God will count the sting of your sin on Jesus, he will justify you, sanctify you, and glorify you!