

HC Q&A 45 – Why was Christ’s Resurrection so Critical

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: If Jesus were raised from the dead today it would have been all over Facebook and WhatsApp. Can you imagine how many would have retweeted this? Can you imagine how many “likes” and how many “shares” there would have been? That would have been an incredible story. It would have “broken” the internet. Rare things are appealing. But then the next story would come along – a man with two heads, for instance -and the resurrection would have disappeared from the headlines.

But you view Christ’s resurrection differently. Christ’s resurrection was more remarkable to you because through Christ’s resurrection you received essential blessings **for your present existence and future experience**. Christ’s resurrection is not simply a story for amazement...but it was about eternal benefits. You’ll hear today about Christ’s resurrection benefits for you.

Our headings are:

- 1. You gain Righteousness or Justification**
- 2. You gain a Renewed Life or Sanctification**
- 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 stung man with physical and spiritual death.

Jesus Christ took on sin in his body and soul, paid the price of it, and then rose up. **He pulled out death’s sting.** (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 Jesus was fully human, he was also Divine. So this meant that he could take the sins of the world on the cross. Christ’s death had **infinite value**. **Jesus took the sting of all who believe in him and then yanked it out.**

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.**

(Do you see the benefits in knowing doctrine? It isn’t great to know more that “ask Jesus into your heart?”)

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 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 on Christ as yours is not hard for God. And God counted Christ’s 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 your 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 righteous, you will still feel the effects of sin. Remember, justification is a judicial 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 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...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.** (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. One such means is called the Moral Influence Theory. This theory states that Christ came to set a good example for his people to follow. **This popular teaching 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, I should do it. 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 was raised from the dead, you not only have his righteousness credited to 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 Christ, that you work showing you understand the greatness of your new life. He 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.**

So 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 internal peace. Live in his love. Spread the spiritual wealth. Don't let sin conquer you! Use your spiritual weapons** to fight.

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?"

1 Peter 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, **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 secured Paradise for you, Jesus Christ, the 2nd Adam, earned heaven for you. You were united with him, so what he achieved you can have heaven as well.

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.

1 John 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 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 rejected 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. How sad for the Jehovah's Witness who do not believe in the resurrection but in annihilation.

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:

1. Jesus paid it all for you.

2. 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?"

3. Live victoriously and fulfill your responsibilities knowing you will never have to worry about your sins.

4. 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 die for your sins in the worst possible way. But my love for you, and more importantly, the Lord's love for you 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!