

# THE RESURRECTION POWER OF CHRIST'S LOVE | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 3/31/2024

\*I. Love Reveals | II. Love Resurrects | III. Love Reassures

**INTRO: Greetings and Welcome to CCV** on this beautiful resurrection Morning – **HE IS RISEN!** – It is so very important that God's people gather on Easter morning to **COMMEMORATE** and **CELEBRATE** the most important EVENT in all history... **The RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST!**

- **Re: The Resurrection, Rev. Billy Graham said** – *"The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the chief proof of the Christian faith, It is the truth that lies at the very foundation of the gospel. Other doctrines may be important, but the resurrection is essential...it's a must."*

This means that Jesus is the most important PERSON in all history... for so many reasons! – But what I find amazing is that **Jesus had NO servants...** yet they called Him Master. **He had NO degree,** yet they called Him Teacher. **He had NO medicines,** yet they called Him Healer. **He had NO army,** yet kings feared Him. **He won NO military battles,** yet He conquered the world... and **He committed NO CRIME,** yet they crucified Him and buried Him in an empty tomb. – **Q: If Jesus was so important then WHY did He experience such a tragic fate?** The simple answer, *To reveal...* **THE RESURRECTION POWER OF CHRIST' LOVE\***

**I. CHRIST'S LOVE REVEALS** – We must understand that *Jesus wasn't forced to die!* **He** wasn't overpowered, outnumbered, or tricked into it. **HE SUBMITTED TO IT!** On **Good Friday,** **He willfully** endured the Cross, with its pain, humiliation, and complete separation from God, because He knew the end result... **the Redemption of Mankind!** – **D.A. Carson** wrote, *"It was not nails that held Jesus to that wretched cross; it was his unqualified resolution, out of love for His Father, to do His Father's will—and it was His love for sinners like me."* *Understand then...*

**A. LOVE SENT HIM THERE** – *The Test of Any Love is how much it is willing to give!* The first part of **(John 3:16a)** says, *'For God so loved the world, that He GAVE...'* **Jesus was God's gift to the world!** – And **(1 John 4:9)** says: *'In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has SENT His only begotten Son into the world, that WE MIGHT LIVE through Him.'*

- If God did not send His Son, there would be **no other way** for man to be saved! **(John 14:6)**
- In His infinite wisdom, God knew that **Nothing could demonstrate His love more powerfully than the Cross!** (*i.e., paying the ultimate sacrifice for our sin - 2 Cor 5:21*) So then...

**B. LOVE KEPT HIM THERE** – **JESUS ACTUALLY CHOSE THE CROSS** because He loves you and me! – While hanging on the cross, many mocked Him: **(Matt 27:42)** *"He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him."* – But Jesus was not concerned with saving Himself, **He REMAINED on the cross to save others!** – **(Heb 12:2)** says, *"...Jesus, [is] the author and finisher of our faith, who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame..."* (*Willing to endure is truly a different kind of JOY!*)

**P/A** – **Human love often fails, but Christ's Love is a LOVE that never fails!** This was revealed when **Jesus Christ God's Son,** who was equal with God the Father **(Phil 2:6-11),** entered into our Time and Space. **He became a human being** **(Gal 4:4)** and dwelt among men.

He lived **A SINLESS LIFE** and was therefore able to go to the cross and die as a **Perfect Substitute** for mankind. (John 15:13) **Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends!**

- **The Cross Proved that Jesus Christ was human... but The Resurrection proved that He is God!**

**II. CHRIST'S LOVE RESURRECTS** – Because of sin's entrance into this world, **Death is a powerful consequence**. Ah, but on the third day, even **Death itself was NO MATCH** for the Resurrecting Power of Christ's Love... (tt. Mark 16:1-6) – **He is Risen! He is NOT here!**

- **At least 3x's in His earthly ministry, Jesus predicted that He would Die and Rise Again after 3 days (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34)**. If Jesus Christ **had not been raised** from the dead, He would have failed in His prophecies – **He would have been just yet another false prophet!**
- But on the Contrary, **"When Christ physically rose from the grave, it CONFIRMED His Identity, Message, and Credentials. What was His identity? God Incarnate. What was His message? Salvation by faith in what He did on the cross. His credentials? Virgin-born, Sinless life, Rose from the dead! He is the Only Savior!"** – A. McFarland
- Scripture presents conclusive evidence that **Jesus Christ was in fact resurrected from the dead**. Christ's resurrection is recorded in **Matt 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-53; and John 20:1-21:25**. The resurrected Christ also appeared in **Acts 1:1-11**. From these passages you can gain several **"PROOFS OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION!"**
- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ verified that **His death was accepted by God as the atonement for our sins!**

**A. HIS LOVE CONQUERED DEATH** – **Because Christ was without sin**, death could NOT hold him in the grave which **CLEARED HIM TO RISE** on the third day as foretold. – (Acts 2:24 RSV) **But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.** – (Rom 6:9) **knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.**

**B. HIS LOVE PRODUCES LIFE** – **First in Himself!** In (Rev 1:17b-18a) Jesus stated: **I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore! Amen.** – Secondly, His **sacrificial death and resurrection** would also **Produce Life** for others who follow!

- During Passion week, Jesus made this **Profound Statement: (John 12:23-24), "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."** – **He knew that His death would produce life for many!** – He went on to provide **a principle for His disciples to follow: He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life (John 12:25)** – Meaning, are you willing to die to self as Jesus did?

**P/A** – **Jesus' Death and Resurrection was offered for ALL MANKIND**, i.e., **"WHOSOEVER!"** By His LOVE, Jesus sacrificially offered Himself in HOPE of Saving People from their own sin! – **Luther referred to (John 3:16) as "the heart of the Bible—the Gospel in miniature."** – It's **so simple a child can understand it;** yet it condenses the deep and marvelous truths of redemption into **just 12 pungent phrases:**

**“God”** ...The greatest Lover  
**“So loved”** ...The greatest degree  
**“The world”** ...The greatest number  
**“That He gave”** ...The greatest act  
**“His only begotten Son”** ...The greatest Gift  
**“That whosoever”** ...The greatest invitation  
**“Believes”** ...The greatest simplicity  
**“In Him”** ...The greatest Person  
**“Should not perish”** ...The greatest deliverance  
**“But”** ...The greatest difference  
**“Have”** ...The greatest certainty  
**“Everlasting Life”** ...The greatest possession!

P/A – The simple Gift of Salvation is FREE to all who believe in Jesus Christ. *“Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom 10:13)* When you do, then you can experience how

**III. CHRIST’S LOVE REASSURES** – Scripture is clear that all those who believe in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal life just as He was (1 Cor 15:20-23). – Before resurrecting Lazarus, Jesus said told Martha (John 11:25-26) ***“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*** This is the most important question that we must ask ourselves! **DO YOU BELIEVE THE JESUS CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD!** *(It will transform your life!)*

- **Peter later assures** that *those who believe* in the Resurrection Power of Christ’s Love, become partakers of a LIVING HOPE! – (1 Pet 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...”*** *(As opposed to dead hope!)*
- **As Christ-followers our hope is ALIVE and ACTIVE!** – It’s NOT *false* or *fading away*. NOT Well-wishes or Good luck, but a RESURRECTION HOPE! **A hope that instructs us to refocus in life ON THE RIGHT COURSE.** (Col 3:1-4 ESV) *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.* *(His Death and “R” empowers us to WALK in newness of life! Rom 6:4)*

• IN CLOSING, I leave you with two conclusions drawn from Stone and The Empty Tomb:

- For the BELIEVER... it communicates an ironclad guarantee: ***The tomb was left empty so that your life could be made full!*** His Resurrection EMPOWERS US to Live a Victorious life!
- For the UNBELIEVER, understand that ***The Stone was rolled rolled-away, not to let Jesus out, but to invite you in to investigate for yourself WHY it is empty!*** – He Is Not there, because HE IS RISEN!

• **CALL FOR WORSHIP**

• **ALTAR CALL – GOD VALUES MANKIND, and He desires ALL to come to Him!**

- But there may be **some of you here WHO ARE STILL UNCERTAIN about your salvation**. If that is you, then the Holy Spirit is moving in your heart right now. He is urging you to **Receive Christ right now!**
- I Invite you to receive Jesus Christ by personal invitation today?
- JESUS CHRIST says, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in” (Rev 3:20).*
- The BIBLE says, *“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom 10:13).*
- The BIBLE says: *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).*

1. ADMIT your spiritual need. “I am a sinner.”
2. REPENT and be willing to turn from your sin.
3. BELIEVE that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.
4. RECEIVE, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and life.

**What to Pray:** Dear Lord Jesus, - I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. - I believe that You died for my sins. - I want to turn from my sins. - I now invite You to come into my heart and life. - I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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**(1 Cor 15:57)** *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**(Heb 10:23)** *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”*