

SUNDAY SCHOOL
LESSONS
BANCROFT MISSION
THE RESURRECTION

Lesson 1

This lesson is taken from the “Why I Believer” Sunday school lessons, lesson 9.

“Why I Believe in the Resurrection”

Acts 1:3, “to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”

Introduction from Dr. Kennedy:

Since the beginning of time, men and women have responded to the death of loved ones with a cry like that of Job: ‘If a man die, shall he live again?’ (Job 14:14). Human philosophy and pagan religions have been able to answer with no more than a question mark, a wish, or a vague hope.

The great genius of Greek philosophy, Plato, was asked: ‘Shall we live again?’ His response: ‘I hope so, but no man may know.’ The tombs of Muhammad or Buddha or Confucius are occupied, but the tomb of Christ is empty to this day.

Why then do we believe in the resurrection of Christ, this most important of all Christian doctrines, beside which all other doctrines are relatively insignificant? It is by the Resurrection that Christ is declared the Son of God with power, and it is by the Resurrection that His atoning sacrifice is declared to be accepted by God. This is the center of the Christian faith. With it everything stands or falls. Therefore, all skeptics through nineteen centuries have aimed their largest guns at the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ has been examined more carefully than the evidence for any other fact of history! It has been weighed and considered by the greatest of scholars, among them Simon Greenleaf, the Royal professor of law at Harvard from 1833 to 1848 who helped bring Harvard Law School to preeminence and who has been called the greatest authority on legal evidences in the history of the world. When Greenleaf turned his mind upon the resurrection of Christ and focused upon it the light of all the laws of evidence, he concluded that the resurrection of Christ was a reality, that it is a historical event, and that anyone who examined the evidence for it honestly would be convinced this was the case. So it was with Frank Morison, a British lawyer who set out to write a book repudiating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He wrote his book, but it was not the book he set out to write. As he examined the evidence for the resurrection of Christ, this skeptical lawyer found it so overwhelming he was forced to accept it and become a believer. The book he did write, titled *Who Moved the Stone?* sets forth the evidence for the resurrection of Christ, and its first chapter is called ‘The Book That Refused to Be Written.’ Lew Wallace also set out to write a book disproving the deity of Christ and His resurrection and ended up writing a famous book defending it. That book was titled *Ben Hur*.

The evidence for the resurrection of Christ, in the minds of those who have time to examine, is very, very significant. I have met many people who do not believe in the resurrection of Christ, but I have never met one person who has read even a single book on the evidences for the Resurrection who did not believe it.”

I. The Evidences.

A. There is the fact of the Lord’s day.

1. For thousands of years the Hebrew people had held their Sabbath doctrine.
2. Early Christians who were Jews changing the day of worship from the seventh to the first day!

What could account for their abandoning something to which they had held so tenaciously? Nothing other than such a monumental event as the resurrection of Christ from the dead, which took place on the first day of the week: His appearance to His disciples on the first day of the week; and the outpouring of His Spirit on the church at Pentecost on the first day of the week. So, we read that it was on the first day of the week that the disciples of Jesus Christ met to worship Him.

B. Easter.

1. This was replacement of the Jewish festival of the Passover.
2. Why did the Jews who held the Passover to be the most significant event in the history of their nation abandon it in favor of the celebration of Easter, which was the festival of festivals among the Christians? The greeting was: "Christ is risen!" And the response: "Christ is risen indeed!"

C. Christian Sacraments.

1. Point not only to the death and suffering of Christ but also to His resurrection and power.
2. These can be traced back in unbroken succession to the very time of the death of Jesus Christ.

D. Christian Art.

In the catacombs of Rome, from the time of persecutions, we find carved into the walls representations of the resurrection of Christ as a part of the very earliest beliefs of the Christians.

E. Christian Hymns.

In the earliest days of the Christian church, hymns were sung to the resurrected Jesus Christ.

F. The Christian Church.

1. Many people do not make the connection between the church and the Resurrection, but all scholars have.
2. The Christian church is the largest institution that exists or has ever existed in the history of the world.
3. More than one billion three hundred million people this day profess to worship Jesus Christ as the living and risen Son of God.

As someone said: "The Grand Canyon was not formed by an Indian dragging a stick." Neither was an institution the size of the Christian church brought to pass by the daydreams of idle dreamers in days gone by. It is known by all historians that the Christian church can be traced back to the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 30, the time of the death and resurrection of Christ.

It is an indisputable fact of history, not faith, that the largest institution in the history of the world began in A.D. 30 in Jerusalem when the apostles began to preach that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. **The very heart and substance of the message of the early Christians was that Christ was risen from the dead.**

The first message delivered at Pentecost was about the resurrection of Christ: about the prophecies that went before it in the Old Testament; about the fact that they had crucified the Lord of glory and God had raised Him from the dead; about the fact that they were the witnesses of these things; about the fact that the risen Christ had now poured out His spirit; and about the fact that because He was risen, He could grant remission of sins to those who would believe in Him.

All the Scriptures and the testimony of unbelievers and hostile enemies of Christianity as well declare that the church was spread everywhere because of this teaching that Christ had risen from the dead. It is a fact that the church of Jesus Christ came into being because the apostles declared that He rose from the dead.

II. Three Alternatives are Possible.

- A. This was fraud, and the apostles lied.
- B. They were deluded, deceived, and in error.
- C. **Christ did rise from the dead.**

Only a handful of theories have been propounded by skeptics, atheists, and unbelievers who have turned their greatest guns upon the Resurrection. All one has to do to be even more convinced about the resurrection of Christ is to examine these theories to see how vain they are. *The Cause and Cure of Infidelity* by Dr. David Nelson records that as young man in college and graduate school he lost his faith but was still upset by an uneasy conscience. In order to bolster himself in his unbelief, he read the writing of the all the "greatest" atheists. He had enough mental acumen to see that their arguments were so fatuous and empty that they would not hold water. This led to his conversion to Jesus Christ.

III. Holy Confrontations.

- A. Confronting the fulfillment of prophecies in the Old Testament.

1. Psalm 16:10, "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption." WITH Acts 2:27-31, "For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' 29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption."

2. Hosea 6:1&2, "Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. 2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight."

3. Isaiah 53:10, "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand."

B. Confronting the predictions of Christ Himself.

1. Mark 9:30&31, "Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *it*. 31 For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

2. John 2:18-22, "So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said."

C. Confronting the graveclothes.

D. Confronting the testimony of witnesses.

E. Confronting the twelve different occasions when Christ appeared to people.

F. Confronting the five hundred people who saw Him risen.

G. Confronting the tremendous transformation of the apostles from fearful, timid cowards to bold proclaimers of the Gospel.

Confronting Peter, the apostle, who one day was afraid of a little maiden, was a few days later confronting the whole Sanhedrin, affirming to them that he could not but declare that which he had seen and heard.

H. Confronting the faithfulness, the character, the suffering, and the death of these witnesses, most of whom sealed their testimony with their blood.

From Dr. Kennedy, "This is a vitally important fact. In the history of psychology, it has never been known that a person was willing to give up life for what he or she knew to be a lie. I used to wonder why it was that God allowed the apostles and all the early Christians to go through such suffering, such tremendous unbelievable tortures. The foundations of Christianity are so established that they are absolutely unshakable today. Paul Little said, 'Men will die for what they believe to be true, though it may actually be false. They do not, however, die for what they know is a lie.'"

I. Confronting Christ's ascension.

J. Confronting Paul, the apostle, -- from Saul, the persecutor and murderer of Christians, to Paul, the greatest apostle in the history of Christianity.

IV. The various theories that try to explain away the Resurrection.

A. Fraud.

1. This was the earliest theory to be set forth.

2. Matthew 28:13&14, “saying, ‘Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him *away* while we slept.’ 14 ‘And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and make you secure.”

3. In the entire history of jurisprudence there has never under any circumstances been a witness who has been allowed to testify to what transpired while he was asleep— “While we were asleep, the apostles came.”

B. Lawyer Frank Morison says: “We have to account not merely for the enthusiasm of its friends (of the church), but the paralysis of its enemies and for the ever-growing stream of new converts which came over to it.

C. Some have said that the Resurrection was a legend that just gradually grew up.

1. The testimony of the resurrection goes back to the very decade in which it took place.

2. Therefore, there was no possible time for legend to develop.

D. The Vision theory.

1. This speculates that the appearances of the resurrected Christ were simply vision or hallucinations brought about by the great expectations these people had that Jesus would rise from the dead.

2. If that were the case, how do we account for the fact that the women came to the tomb bearing spices.

3. Mary sat outside the tomb weeping because her Lord was dead, and the corpse had been stolen.

4. Two on the road to Emmaus were totally disconsolate and dejected because they had thought the crucified Christ was the Messiah who should have delivered Israel, but now were convinced everything was lost?

From Dr. Kennedy, “In the history of hallucinations there is no incident in which five hundred people from different backgrounds, of different temperaments, ever saw the same vision at the same time! Furthermore, there are innumerable other reefs upon which that ship will go aground. If these were simply hallucinations that they were seeing, did none of the disciples think about going to the tomb to see if the body was still there? When they proclaimed their ‘hallucinations,’ did none of their enemies ever consider taking a few steps over to examine the tomb? When Peter preached at Pentecost about his ‘great hallucination,’ he was only ten minutes away from the tomb. Thousands of people believed; other thousands heard and did not believe. Did no one think of walking down the street to check it out? Hardly! Certainly those sophisticated, conspiring Sadducees would have taken every opportunity to show that this was simply a hallucination.

E. The “Swoon” theory.

1. This has been set forth by Venturini (Karl Venturini, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, suggested the “swoon theory.” The swoon theory says that Jesus swooned, or fainted, on the cross, but did not die. He revived in the cool air of the tomb, escaped from it, and appeared “alive” to people, even though He had actually never died).

2. It is found in the writings of Mary Baker Eddy (founder of the religious denomination known as Christian Science).

3. It is found in the writings of Hugh Schonfield in *The Passover Plot*.

It is interesting, however, that for more than eighteen hundred years there was never a whisper from the friends or the most implacable enemies of Christianity that Jesus Christ had not died. Some of these recent writers have now conceived the idea that Jesus had simply swooned, was taken down from the cross and thought to be dead; then, in the coolness of the tomb, He revived and came out and convinced His disciples that He had risen from the dead.

IV. Facts.

A. The wound from the centurion—delivered into the side with a Roman spear, producing both blood and water—empirical evidence that life had ceased, because the blood and separated into its constituent elements.

B. The testimony of the centurion who was sent by Pilate, a man who dealt and trafficked in death, whose business it was as an executioner to know that Jesus was dead.

Suppose He did free Himself from those grave clothes, without in any way disturbing them, and then go to the huge stone that sealed the tomb. He would have had to move it with hands that had been pierced with the large Roman spikes used for crucifixions. He would have had to place them on the flat inside of the enormous stone and simply roll it away. Greek terms in the Gospels indicated that it was rolled uphill. Indeed, that is a miraculous feat in itself! He then would have had to overcome a Roman armed guard and walk fourteen miles that afternoon to Emmaus and back. That was to loosen up His feet after the spikes had pierced them, to get in shape for His walk all the way to the north of Palestine to Galilee where He climbed a mountain.

C. The Ascension of Jesus Christ.

All the theories that have been propounded fall into the dust as we examine facts so evident that no one has ever been able to refute them.

D. The Roman guard admitted it; the Sanhedrin admitted it by telling the soldiers to say that His disciples had stolen Him.

Conclusion from Dr. Kennedy

There is the final fact of Christian experience: that this risen Jesus Christ has gone throughout all the world and that He has reached down and transformed human beings in every nation, tongue, and tribe of this earth; that countless millions of people have come to know that He is alive from the dead and has come to enter their lives and transform them. He is the One who says: “I am he that lives and who was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore...Whosoever lives and believeth in me shall never die” (Revelation 1:18; John 11:26).

Even now Christ stands knocking at the door of our hearts and He says, "If any man hears my voice and open the door I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Unless we have come to know Him experientially in the laboratory of our own soul, we are without hope in this world and world to come. For Jesus and His resurrection are the only hope of mankind. Without that, we have nothing to look forward to but a black hole in the ground.

Christ is risen, indeed! He is alive, as He said, and He is willing to come and live in our hearts if we are willing to repent of our sins and place our trust in Him who died for us and rose again.

Lesson 2

Between the Cross and the Resurrection

Matthew 12:40, “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Some important history.

1. At the time of Jesus, the Jewish leaders were following the Oral Torah. The Oral Torah is believed to have originated with Moses at Mount Sinai, where he received both the written and oral instructions from God. It serves to explain, clarify, and expand upon the Written Torah, providing practical guidance for Jewish life and observance. The Oral Torah includes interpretations of biblical laws, legal precedents, customs, and rabbinic discussions.

2. In the Jewish mind of that day a person was not officially dead until three days after he loses consciousness. Ancient Jewish teachings instructs that when a body dies the soul lingers near the body for three days hoping that it will return to life. After three days the soul will return to God to await the time of the resurrection.

It was not unheard of in those days for someone to be declared dead and suddenly they are alive again. I mean even today with modern medical science we still argue over the point when someone is clinically dead. Is a person dead when their heart stops or when their brain ceases to function. They can keep a person breathing and the heart beating artificially, but if there is no brain function is the person dead? If we have a problem defining death today, think of the problem people faced in the first century. A person passes out or goes into a coma are they dead? The people of the first century thought so but they would allow three days to pass to be sure. Even up to the eighteenth-century people were buried with a string attached to their arm just in case they are revived. If that happens, they would pull the string which would then ring a bell, and the graveyard attendant would know the old boy had life in him yet and would dig him up. People did not know anything about comas in those days. In fact one test of whether the person was dead or not was to yell in their ear, if there was no response, then he was dead. That is not what we call scientific.

3. A common idiom in the Middle East in those days was “three days.”

Idioms are phrases used in one culture but not in another. Have you ever had a “bone to pick” with someone? Do you know anyone with a “chip on their shoulder?” These are idioms that we West Virginians use, but other cultures might not.

“Three days” is an idiom used to express that something is complete. The purpose of which someone has done something has been successful.

With these in mind, it explains why Jesus said, “...so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

a. It would prove to all that He was really dead.

b. He may have been dead one day, or maybe more. It doesn’t matter because the reason He died has been accomplished: paying the penalty of sin for all mankind.

I. Hades and Gehenna.

A. Hades and Gehenna are Greek words that have been translated “hell.”

B. Hades.

1. Hades means “intermediate Godless state.”

2. It is not the final destination of those without Jesus.

3. Revelation 20:14 KJV, “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

a. If hell in this verse is the final destination of those without Jesus, how could it be “cast into the lake of fire.”

b. The Greek word here for hell is “hades.”

4. Apparently, before Jesus’s resurrection, there were two compartments in hades: a non-tormenting side and a torment side.

a. Non-tormenting side.

- Jesus told the thief that “today, you shall be with me in paradise.” It was “paradise” because he would be with Jesus.
- Colossians 2:11-15, “In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”
- When Jesus rose from the dead, He took all of these with Him to glory. Psalm 24:7-10, “Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The **LORD mighty in battle**. 9 Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah”
- Ephesians 4:8-10, “Therefore He says: “*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*” 9 (Now this, “*He ascended*”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who

descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)”

- This is also referred to as “Abraham’s bosom.” Luke 16:22, “So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.”

b. Tormenting side.

- Luke 16:23-26, “And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ 25 “But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 ‘And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’”

II. Joppa to Nineveh.

A. Jonah was told to go to Ninevah, but he went to Joppa. Joppa to Ninevah is about 625 miles.

B. He fled to Tarshish.

1. Ninevah is Northeast of Joppa.
2. Tarshish is almost due West of Joppa.
3. The Bible doesn’t say how long Jonah was heading West toward Tarshish.
4. **IF** he traveled one day, that would be about 100 miles.
5. A Sperm whale is the only fish with a throat large enough to swallow a man.
6. The cruising speed of a Sperm whale is about 9 miles per hour.
7. The whale would have had to swim about 725 miles to Ninevah. This would have taken the whale 80 hours—a little more than three days.

C. All of “B” is speculation and does not really matter. Jonah was in the whale’s belly for “three days.” Or, until the reason for him being swallowed was accomplished, or completed.

III. How long was Jesus dead?

“Three days.” Or, until He accomplished all that the Father assigned Him.

Lesson 3

Effects of the Resurrection

In the next few lessons we will study some of the effects of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

John 16:16-28, "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." 17 Then *some* of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" 18 They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying." 19 Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'? 20 "Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. 21 "A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 "Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. 23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. 25 "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; 27 "for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. 28 "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."

This chapter, John 16, deals primarily with the promise of the Holy Spirit.

This lesson will deal with verses 23 and 26: 23, "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you." 26, ""In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;"

I. "That day."

A. Jesus had told them that they would be sorrowful, but their sorrow would be turned into joy.

B. He used the analogy of a woman having sorrow but when the child was labor, but when the child was born her sorrow and pain would be replaced by the joy of the child.

C. Jesus was foretelling of His death and resurrection.

D. "That day" refers to the series of events that would take place.

1. His death.

The sorrow of His death and the disappointment of their expectation is seen in Luke 24: 17-21, "And He said to them, "What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" 18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these

days?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened."

2. His resurrection.

The sorrow turned to joy is expressed in Luke 24:32-41, "And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread. 36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." 40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"

3. His ascension.

His ascension into glory produced joy. Luke 24:50-53, "And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen."

4. The baptism with the Holy Spirit.

a. Jesus fulfilled the promise of empowerment which further provided joy. Luke 24:49, "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

b. The evidence of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:46&47, "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

We see from these scriptures that "That day", the day of joy was not just one day but the events aforementioned.

II. One of the effects of "That day" is found in John 16 verses 23 and 26: 23, "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you." 26, ""In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;"

- A. Ask anything in My name.
- B. This is not the first time Jesus told them this.

John 14:13&14, "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

C. This is not a carte blanche statement (Carte Blanche—complete freedom to act as one wishes or thinks best.)

- D. "In My Name."

1. To ask a thing as prompted by the mind of Christ and in reliance on that bond that unites us to Him.

2. John 14:26, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

a. The Holy Spirit is given in the Name of Jesus and will not operate outside of that Name.

b. Acts 19:11-16, "Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."

Story: When our daughter, Meridith, was about 7 or 8 years old she was talking about something she could not do. I told her she could do "all things through Jesus who gives us strength." She said, "Daddy, I can't jump over this house." Hmmm, we can do all things and ask all things that He would do or authors.

E. Jesus has given us His Name to use to ask and do what He would do if He were here today.

Lesson 4

Effects of the Resurrection

Death and Sin

I. The resurrection of Jesus gives us victory over physical death.

Good news: If a person is born twice, he will die once. Bad news: If a person is born once, he will die twice.

A. We do not have victory over physical death for we shall all die.

1. Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,"

2. Job 19:25&26, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,"

3. Psalm 116:15 NLT, "The LORD cares deeply when his loved ones die."

B. As a believer in the finished work of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection:

1. Death has no sting or hold on us.

a. 1st Corinthians 15:50-57, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?" 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."

b. Psalm 73:24, "You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me *to* glory."

2. Fear has no hold on us.

Philippians 3:20&21, "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."

Delmas Moles gives the testimony of when his grandfather, Joe Shank, died. He said his grandfather was on his death bed and called for his grandchildren. He then told all of his grandchildren, "I want you to see how a Christian man dies."

The resurrection of Jesus gives assurance to the believer of a glorious life after this one.

A few years ago we had the privilege of being with our dear sister in the Lord, Lois Bailey, in the last 20 minutes or so of her life on earth. She looked at all of those in the room and said, "In a few minutes I am going to see Jesus. I am going to see Roe (her husband), mother and daddy, Danny (her brother), and Rusty (her son).

The resurrection of Jesus gives assurance to the believer of a glorious life after this one.

3. Promise of seeing our loved ones again.

a. Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,"

b. Genesis 25:8, "Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people."

c. 2nd Samuel 12:22&23, "And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell *whether* the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' 23 "But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

d. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18, "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Yes, we experience sorrow for the loss of a loved one. That is part of the healing process. However, we don't sorrow without hope. We know, if they were believers, that we shall see them again.

4. We shall have new bodies.

2nd Corinthians 5:1, "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

II. The resurrection of Jesus gives us victory over spiritual death.

A. Spiritual death is the result of sin.

1. Romans 5:12-21, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the

judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. Spiritual death is separation from God.

B. Romans 6:3-11, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1. Many interpret this to say that someday we will be free of sin and death, when we are resurrected in our glorified bodies. However, verse 11 says, "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." The NLT says it this way, "So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus."

2. Ephesians 2:4-6 says, "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,"

Lesson 5

Effects of the Resurrection

Spread of the Gospel

Acts 17:6, “But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.”

From a group of uneducated, unskilled, competitive group of 12 where one denied, one betrayed, two competed, one doubted, to “turning the world upside down” in just 20 or so years. Today, approximately 30% of the world's population claim Jesus as their Savior.

The Bible holds the title of the best-selling book of all time, with estimates ranging from 5 to 7 billion copies sold worldwide [according to Guinness World Records](#).

In the US, Bible sales saw a 22% increase in 2024 compared to previous years.

Despite declining religious affiliation among some populations, the Bible's popularity remains strong, with new buyers, including younger generations, contributing to sales.

There were, and are two main factors contributing to the spread of the Gospel. Both of which are the result of the resurrection.

I. The empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

A. Luke 24:46-49, “Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 “and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 “And you are witnesses of these things. 49 “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

1. There was some kind of evidence of being empowered by the Spirit or the apostles would have “tarried” forever. Because Jesus commissioned them to preach the Gospel, the evidence must have been an experience of power in their inner man.

2. Father wants to empower us today.

a. Ephesians 3:16, “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,”

b. Ephesians 3:19, “to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

3. The empowerment of the Holy Spirit is always associated with carrying out the purpose of God.

a. Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

b. Ephesians 3:20, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,"

c. 1st Corinthians 2:4, "And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,"

B. The empowerment of the Holy Spirit gave courage.

1. Acts 2:14-18, "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy."

2. Acts 2:32&33, "**This Jesus God has raised up**, of which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

II. The truth and message of the Resurrection.

A. Acts 17:16-18, "Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. 17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. 18 "Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection."

1. Paul was preaching in Greece, the home of philosophy and the "deeper" thinking.

2. They were familiar with the virgin birth for Nero, and others, claimed a virgin birth.

3. They were familiar with shedding blood. Many other religions believed there was power in blood.

a. One religion would sacrifice a bull on a platform, and the soldiers walked under the sprinkling blood. They believe the strength of the bull would go into them.

b. Other religions, even in Abraham's day, sacrifice their children to the god Molech.

4. They had heard about hell. One religion of that day would have people walk across a tight rope stretched over a chasm. If they fell, they would fall into hell.

5. The message of the Resurrection of Jesus caused them to either accept Jesus as their Savior, or infuriate them. This is still true today, in 2025.

- B. Reading through the New Testament, the crucifixion and resurrection is the theme.