

The Kingdom **Kingdom Pinnacle**

Philippians 2:5-11

Universally Accepted Historical Facts:

- A historical man known as Jesus died by crucifixion.
- Soon afterwards, His followers had real experiences that they believed were actual appearances of a resurrected Jesus.
- After these appearances, his followers' lives were transformed so that they were willing to die for proclaiming this resurrection.
- These beliefs were proclaimed very soon after the crucifixion.
- James, the unbelieving brother of Jesus, became a Christian due to his own experience that he believed to be with a risen Jesus.
- A Christian persecutor, Saul of Tarsus, also became a believer after an experience with whom he believed to be the risen Jesus.

"I do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead, otherwise I would be a Christian & not a Jew..." **Jewish Rabbi**

"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

The Resurrection of Jesus is not just a historical event you either believe or not with no other ramifications; it's the Kingdom Pinnacle within the Kingdom of God!

"To preach Christianity means primarily to preach the Resurrection. And Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important." **C.S. Lewis**

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed upon him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." **Philippians 2:5-11**

Main Idea: The Resurrection of Jesus Is the Pinnacle of the Kingdom of God

Three Things To Remember Considering the Resurrection

I. The Risen Jesus Is To Be Imitated – vs. 5-7

Mind of Christ:

- **It's Ours in Christ** – We receive it as a gift and practice it by faith.
- **It's Humble** – It does not only seek its own benefit, but others', too.
- **It's Sacrificial** – As Christ has sacrificed for us, we sacrifice for him.

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." **1 Corinthians 11:1**

II. The Risen Jesus Paid the Ultimate Price – vs. 8

"For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." **Colossians 1:19-20**

III. The Risen Jesus Is Not Finished – vs. 9-11

"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." **Hebrews 1:3**

But to the end of unending eternity, Christ is alive! Christ rules and reigns and triumphs! **Michelangelo**

Main Idea: The Resurrection of Jesus is the Pinnacle of the Kingdom of God

Did Jesus rise from the dead? If not, then following him makes no sense whatsoever. If so, then you must agree with the rabbi; there's no other option but to turn away from everything you've ever known to follow him as Lord and Savior. Worship him or walk away from him. *But you should know that he's good and he keeps on getting better...*

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Editor Trevin Wax (2017)
- *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* – Richard J. Erickson (1995)
- *The Kingdom Agenda* – Tony Evans (2013)
- *Minimal Facts on the Resurrection that Even Skeptics Accept* – Gary Habermas (2021)