

# He Is Risen! We Are JUSTIFIED!

Romans 4:13-25

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Romans 8:28-34



## He Is Risen!

- What makes the Resurrection so important to our faith?
- First, let's consider what Jesus of Nazareth said about Himself:
  - ① I came from heaven. (John 3:13; 6:33, 38, 51)
  - ② I am God. (John 10:30-33)
  - ③ I am without sin. (John 8:46)
  - ④ I forgive sin. (Psalm 51:4; Mark 2:5; Luke 5:20-24; 7:48-49)
  - ⑤ I am the only way to God. (John 14:6)
  - ⑥ I will conquer death. (John 10:18, 34; 2:19)
- Many, false christs and teachers, have claimed 1-5. NONE have done number 6.
- Did Christ rise from the dead? Our faith hangs on the answer to this question. (See 1 Corinthians 15:12-20)
  - ❑ If the answer is YES then only a fool would reject all the claims of Christ.
  - ❑ If the answer is NO then anyone who believes in Christ is a fool.
- This is a serious question. Your opinion does not matter! Did or did not Jesus of Nazareth, a historical person, rise from the dead.
- Dr. Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853):
  - Legal scholar, law professor at Harvard Law School.
  - Dane professor of Law at Harvard.
  - Author of three volume masterpiece called *A Treatise of the Law of Evidence*. This work is still called today, "the greatest single authority in the entire literature of legal procedure." The US judicial system uses it still today for rules of evidence.

- Author of *Testimony of the Evangelists, Examined by the Rules of Evidence Administered in Courts of Justice*. He applied the rules of establishing authenticity of ancient documents to the gospel accounts and applied cross-examination principles in assessing the reliability of the witnesses of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.
- Greenleaf's conclusion: Any unbiased person who honestly examines the evidence, as in a court of law, will conclude what that Christ did what He said He would do - rise on the third day.

## He Is Risen INDEED! (Luke 24:34; Matthew 28:7)

- We have a highly respected law professor's testimony.
- BUT we have a higher Person's testimony – GOD Himself.
- Anyone who rejects the life, crucifixion, and resurrection must publicly testify that not only is Dr. Greenleaf a liar and a fool, but they must also testify that God is a liar. (1 John 2:22; 5:10-12)
- We have Dr. Greenleaf's volumes of work (as well as thousands of other volumes of scientists, scholars from all fields, professionals, etc.) but we have the very Word of God that testifies that Jesus of Nazareth was who He said He was and did what He said He could do.
- To deny the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is to deny that there is any god. And only a fool denies there is no God. (Psalm 14:1; 53:1)
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ affirms without any doubt that Jesus, came to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21); fulfilled the Law of God perfectly for His people (Romans 8:3-4; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15); laid down His life to pay the penalty of His people's sins (John 10:15, 18; Titus 2:14; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:6-8); and rose again, conquering death! (Hebrews 2:14; 1 Corinthians 15:54-55; 2 Timothy 1:9-10)

## Why Is the Resurrection a Big Deal to Us? (Romans 4:1-25)

- (Romans 3:23) ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
  - ★ ALL **deserve** God's wrath (Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; John 3:36).
  - ★ ALL are born **enemies** of God and God promises to pour out His wrath on His enemies. (Nahum 1:2)
  - ★ ONLY those as righteous as God are His friends/children. (Matthew 5:48; 1 John 2:28-29; John 14:15; 15:10, 13-14) ALL lack the righteousness of God. Sin is unrighteousness.

- (Romans 4:7-8) “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute sin.” **MEDITATE!** (Quoted from Psalm 32:1-2, remember 2 Samuel 12:13) How does this happen?
- (Romans 4:3) “Abraham **believed God**, and it was accounted to Him for righteousness.” (Quoted from Genesis 15:6)
- The “IT” is NOT Abraham’s faith. “IT” is the gift of righteousness – God’s own righteousness - God’s own “robe of righteousness”. (Romans 3:21-22; 5:17; Isaiah 61:10; Romans 13:14; Philippians 3:9)
- What was the **evidence** of Abraham’s belief? HIS OBEDIENCE. (Hebrews 11:8; 5:9; Genesis 22:18; 1 John 2:3-6; James 2:14-16)
- **(ROMANS 4:22-25)** “IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”
  - ★ This was written (Genesis 15:6) not for Abraham sake BUT for ALL who would BELIEVE GOD!
  - ☆ “IT” shall be **imputed** to us who **BELIEVE GOD**.
- (Romans 4:25) DO WE BELIEVE GOD WHO . . .
  - Delivered up His own Son **for our offenses**. . .
    - “delivered” - παραδίδωμι - handed over; given into the hands of; to give over into one’s power or us. (Romans 8:32; Isaiah 53:6, 10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 3:16; 1 John 4:10)
  - Was raised **for our justification** . . .
    - The sending of His Son, the delivering of His Son, the raising of His Son, **and** our justification are all the WORK of GOD - and GOD ALONE! (Romans 10:9; 4:24; Acts 2:24; Romans 8:33; 3:24-26)

### What Is Justification?

- Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone. (Baptist Catechism, 1689)
- God SENT His Son to live a PERFECT life **for His people**. (Matthew 1:21)
- God SACRIFICED His Son on the Cross **for His people**. (Isaiah 53:10; 1 John 4:10)
- God ACCEPTED His Son’s sacrifice as a sweet-smelling sacrifice **on behalf of His people**. (Ephesians 5:1-2; Romans 8:3)
- GOD RAISED His Son from the dead for the justification of His people. (Romans 4:25)

- GOD JUSTIFIES His people because Christ “. . . with His own blood . . . obtained eternal redemption” **for His people**. (Hebrews 9:12)
- In justification our sins are IMPUTED unto Christ (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 4:3-4) and Christ’s righteousness is imputed into our account - we are clothed with God’s robe of righteousness. - “the gift of righteousness” – His own righteousness! (Romans 5:17; Isaiah 61:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

by

GRACE ALONE

through

FAITH ALONE

### What/Who Are You?

- A FOOL (who is wise in his/her own eyes).
- One who BELIEVES GOD and demonstrates that belief in obeying God.

## THE QUESTION for TODAY

Do You Believe Man?

or

Do You Believe God?