

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Red Bud, Illinois
Adult Bible Class
"The Apostolic Preaching of the Resurrection"

The Resurrection of Jesus as Taught in the Book of Acts:

Acts 1:3 _____

Acts 1:21-22 _____

Acts 2:22-24 _____

Acts 2:32-33 _____

Acts 3:14-15 _____

Acts 4:1-2 _____

Acts 4:8-12 _____

Acts 4:32-33 _____

Acts 5:29-32 _____

Acts 10:39-41 _____

Acts 13:26-36 _____

Acts 17:1-3 _____

Acts 17:18 _____

Acts 17:31-32 _____

Acts 23:6-8 _____

Acts 25:18-19 _____

Acts 26:6-8 _____

Acts 26:22-23 _____

Paul's Preaching of the Resurrection in his Letters

A. Romans 1:1-4

v. 1 **In what three ways does Paul describe himself?** _____

v. 2 **Who was privileged first to preach this gospel?** _____

v. 3 **The Son of God is also a _____ of _____.**

v. 4 **How is the Third Person of the Trinity described?** _____

What does His resurrection declare about Jesus? _____

Since He is risen from the dead, what is His relationship to us? _____

"These verses have the character of an early Christian creed" (Lutheran Study Bible, page 1908). In this book Paul uses the familiar words of Christian confession and worship to introduce himself and his teaching of the faith to the Roman congregation, which he had neither founded nor yet visited.

B. Romans 4:22-25

Paul's point in this section is that God's relationship with Abraham was His grace through faith. This was long before God revealed His Law at Mt. Sinai. In quoting the business language of Genesis 15:6 Paul notes that Abraham's faith in God's promise was considered as righteousness by God. This is the same relationship God has with us.

v. 24 **Why does God credit us righteousness?** _____

That God (the Father) raised Jesus from the dead is what Paul highlights for us about Him. Does this mean that is the most important thing for us to know about the First Person of the Trinity? _____

v. 25 Notice the passive verbs. **Why did Jesus die?** _____

Why was Jesus raised? _____

"These words, which reflect the Greek translation of Isaiah 53:11-12, are probably quoted from a Christian confessional formula" (Concordia Self-Study Bible, page 1723). "The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are, essentially, one act. Jesus was crucified to pay the penalty for our sins. His resurrection demonstrates His power, assures us that God approves of His work, and is a promise of our resurrection" (LSB, page 1916).

C. Romans 6:3-11

v. 3 **To what does our baptism connect us?** _____

v. 4 **How was Christ raised from the dead?** _____

What does His resurrection mean for us? _____

"Baptism is a means by which we enter into a vital faith relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a means of receiving God's grace, and it depicts graphically what happens as a result of the Christians union with Christ. Through faith we are united with Christ, just as through our natural birth we are united with Adam. As we fell into sin and became subject to death in father Adam, so we now have died and been raised again with Christ—which baptism effects" (CSSB, page 1724).

v. 5 Our union with Christ in His death continues on to our union with Him in His resurrection.

vv. 6-7 **Why are we no longer slaves to sin?** _____

v. 8 United to Christ through baptism, we go where He goes, both through death and into life. "As resurrection followed death in the experience of Christ, so the believer who dies with Christ is raised to a new quality of life here and now. Resurrection in the sense of a new birth is already a fact, and it increasingly exerts itself in the believer's life" (CSSB, page 1725).

v. 9 **What do we know about the resurrected Christ?** _____

v. 10 Christ's death was the full and complete sacrifice for sins. His resurrected life is devoted to the Father.

v. 11 **Because we are "in Christ," how can we describe ourselves?**

D. Romans 8:10-11

v. 10 Just as in Christ we are both saint and sinner, we also are both dead and alive.

Why are we "dead"? _____ **Why are we "alive"?** _____

v. 11 Each person of the Trinity is referred to at least twice in this verse. The teaching is clear, though the words "Trinity" or "Triune" do not appear.

How is the Father described? _____

How is the Son (Jesus, Christ; human name and divine title) described?

_____ **How is the Spirit described?** _____

What will the Father ("He") do for us? _____

E. Romans 10:8-9

Verse 8 is a quote of Deuteronomy 30:14 where the "word" is God's law, but here Paul applies it to the gospel, which he describes as the "word of faith."

v. 9 The faith of heart is to be confessed with the mouth. "Jesus is Lord" was the earliest Christian confession, probably spoken at baptisms. It was in contrast to the confession a Roman citizen had to make at tax time, "Caesar is lord."

What are we to "believe in our heart"? _____

What will be the result of this faith? _____

F. 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

What is of "first importance" in Paul's preaching to the Corinthians? _____

G. 1 Corinthians 15:17-22 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. ²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

What is our problem if Christ has not been raised from the dead? _____

How does Paul describe the resurrected Christ in verse 20? _____

H. 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Verse 8: “hardships we suffered in Asia”- This is not the continent we know, but the Roman province by that name which covered the western third of Asia Minor, or what we know today as the nation of Turkey. Paul spent three years there in the major city of Ephesus. Acts 19 records opposition from the Jews there but what Paul describes here seems even more severe.

How intense was this “great pressure” that Paul was under there?

“far beyond our _____ to _____”

“we despaired _____ of _____”

Verse 9: “we felt the _____ of _____”

What two reasons does Paul give for why this opposition happened to him?

“that we might not _____ on _____” but

“on God who _____ the _____.”

Verses 10-11: Knowing that God has such an ability that He has and again will exercise on Paul’s behalf (and all other believers in Christ), is there anything of this world that truly can threaten us? **While Paul places his _____ in God to continue to deliver him, how can the Corinthian recipients of this letter help him?** _____

When God answers those prayers with His “gracious favor”, what will be the result among the believers? “many will _____ on our behalf”

I. 2 Corinthians 4:13-15

Verse 13: Paul quotes from Psalm 116:10 to describe the inspiration for his mission ministry, the “spirit of faith” by which “we also believe and therefore speak.” In true prophetic fashion (e.g. Jeremiah), the message that the Holy Spirit reveals to us cannot be kept within us, we must speak it.

Verse 14: **What three parts of that message does Paul describe here?**

“we _____ that the One who _____ the Lord Jesus from the _____”

“will also raise _____ with _____” and

“present us with _____ in His _____” (what is Paul describing?)

Verse 15: "All this" is Paul's mission ministry which not only is benefiting the Corinthians, but is (God's) grace reaching more and more people. **What is the result of this "reaching"?**

"cause _____ to overflow to the _____ of God."

J. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Paul returns to a description and a defense of his mission ministry. He must have been accused by some of being "out of his mind" (verse 13), but any foolishness to human reason that he displayed was "for the sake of God."

Verse 14: **What is it that "compels" Paul in his ministry?** _____

Of what was Paul "convinced"? "one _____ for all, and therefore _____ died"

Who is that "one"? _____ Who are the "all"? _____

Verse 15: **Since "He died for all" what should be the two results?**

"that those who _____ should no longer live for _____" but

"for _____ who _____ for them and was _____ again."

K. Ephesians 1:18-21

In one long, run-on sentence Paul records his thanksgiving for the faith and love of this letter's recipients, and assuring them that he keeps them in his prayers to the Triune God (Lord Jesus Christ, Father, Spirit in verse 17) that they might know Him better.

Verse 18: **What else is part of Paul's prayer on behalf of his letter's recipients?**

"that you may know the _____ to which He has _____ you"

What is this hope? "the _____ of His glorious inheritance in the _____"

Verse 19: **and "His incomparably great _____ for us who _____"**

Verse 20: **In what two ways did God "exert" His mighty strength?**

"when He _____ Him from the _____" (resurrection) and

"seated Him at His right _____ in the heavenly _____" (ascension)

Verse 21: Human language simply cannot describe the rule, power, authority, dominion and title that the risen and ascended Lord Jesus now has and forever will have.

L. Ephesians 2:4-7

On our own we are "dead" in our transgressions and sins in which we "used" to live "gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature."

Verse 4: **What is the first word of this verse?** _____ (what comes next changes everything that had come before)

In what two ways does Paul describe God here?

"His great _____ for _____" and "who is _____ in _____"

Verse 5: **What did God do for us? "made us _____ with _____"**

Why is this so amazing? "even when we were _____ in _____"

How could this possibly be? "it is by _____ you have been _____"

Verse 6: Not only has God raised us up with Christ, He also has “seated us with Him in the heavenly realms.” Our new life in Christ is in the here and now, but it is also for the there and then “in the coming ages.”

Verse 7: **What more does God have in His plans for us?**

**“He might show the incomparable _____ of His _____”
“expressed in His _____ to us in _____”**

M. Philippians 3:8-11

Verse 8- “I consider everything a loss...I have lost all things.” **Why can Paul say this?**

“rubbish” = sewage; that is what Paul thinks of his own “righteousness that comes from law”; but instead “that which is through faith in _____, the righteousness that comes from _____”

Verse 10- “I want to know _____ and the _____ (dunamis) of His _____”
(anastaseos); “sharing in His _____, becoming like Him in His _____...to attain to the _____ (ekanatastasin) from the dead.”

N. Colossians 2:11-12

Verse 11- How is our circumcision described? **“in the putting off of the _____, not with a circumcision done by the hands of _____ but with the circumcision done by _____”**

Verse 12- This new “circumcision” Paul further describes as being **“buried with Him in _____ and _____ with Him through _____** (“your” is not in the Greek) **in the _____ of _____, who raised Him from the _____”**

The New Testament evenly speaks of Jesus rising from the dead and God (the Father) raising Him from the dead.

O. Colossians 3:1-4

Verse 1- “you have been raised with Christ...For you died” **When did this happen? _____**

Now that this has happened for us, what are we to do? **“set your _____ on things _____...set your _____ on things above, not on _____ things.”**

Why should we do this? **When _____, who is your life, _____, then you also will appear with Him in _____.”**

P. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Verse 16- Notice the three signs of Christ’s return (think also Day of Pentecost) What then will happen? **“the _____ in Christ will _____ first”**

Verse 17- The living faithful will not be forgotten but will join them in welcoming the Lord. “Caught up” in Latin is rapio from which we get the English word “rapture” (misused by many) What is the result of this activity? **“We will be with the _____ forever.”**

P. 2 Timothy 2:8-9 and 16-18

Verse 8- What is the first thing that we remember about Jesus? **“_____ from the _____”**

Verse 9- What was Paul willing to do on account of this? “_____ **like a criminal**”

Verse 16- What had those who wandered from the truth said? “**resurrection has** _____”

Why would this have “**destroyed the faith of some**”? _____

The Resurrection of Jesus According to the Book of Hebrews

I. Introduction

The Book of Acts contains over twenty references to the resurrection of Jesus in the early church’s preaching and teaching of Him. The Apostle Paul devotes all of 1 Corinthians 15 to this important doctrine of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection of Jesus our preaching is in vain and our faith is in vain. There is no Christian faith, no Christian church, and no Christian hope if Jesus’ dead body decayed in a stone tomb outside of Jerusalem.

What does another major book of the New Testament, Hebrews, say about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead? In what way and how often does the longest of the General Epistles treat this major, foundational and vital teaching of the Christian church? What role in our faith does the resurrection of Jesus play according to the author of Hebrews?

II. Passages

1:3b “After He had provided purification for sins, (_____) He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

2:9 “now crowned with glory and honor (how? _____) because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”

2:14-15 “so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death (how? _____)—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

4:14 “since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens (how? _____), Jesus the Son of God”

6:2 The resurrection of the dead is one of six elementary teachings about Christ.

7:24-25 “because Jesus lives forever (how? _____)...He always lives to intercede for them.”

8:1 “We have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven.” (What had to happen before this? _____)

9:27-28 “Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; (_____) and He will appear a second time...”

10:12 “But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, (_____), He sat down at the right hand of God.”

12:2 “endured the cross, scorning its shame, (_____) and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

***13:20 “who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep” (used as a blessing in the funeral committal service) This is the only explicit reference to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead in the book of Hebrews.

III. Conclusion

While we might expect that the resurrection of Jesus from the dead would be highlighted in the letter to the Hebrews, this is not the case, at least, not explicitly. The author emphasizes the suffering and the sacrifice of Jesus. The shedding of His blood is the complete payment of our sins in fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrificial system. The author also stresses the exaltation of Jesus as the Son of God reigning from the throne of His heavenly Father. However, the bridge between Jesus' suffering and His exaltation, that is, His resurrection from the dead, is only mentioned once in this book, perhaps to be assumed as a known fact by the reader/hearer of this letter.

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus in the General Epistles

The Letter of James:

Matthew 13:55 James is listed as a (half-) brother of Jesus.

John 7:2-5 Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 Paul lists Jesus' resurrection appearances, including one to James (v. 7)

Acts 1:14 After Jesus' ascension into heaven Mary and the brothers of Jesus (which would include James) are gathered with other believers in Jesus.

After Peter's departure from Jerusalem in Acts 12 James became the leader of the Christian congregation in that city. He presided over the first church "convention" that met in Jerusalem in AD 49 (Acts 15). He pronounced the judgment that Gentiles did not have to "become Jews" through circumcision and obedience to food laws in order to be Christians.

Yet in his letter, which may be the first New Testament book written (around AD 44), James only mentions Jesus twice (1:1 "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" and 2:1 "My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ don't show favoritism"), with neither reference saying anything about His death and/or resurrection. This lack of focus upon Jesus in this letter is one reason Martin Luther referred to this book as "an epistle of straw."

First Peter:

In contrast to James, Peter includes many references to Jesus in his first letter. A number of them mention His suffering, death and resurrection.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. How do we know God? _____

"His great mercy" "resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" "new birth into a living hope" (now) "inheritance that can never perish, spoil, fade, kept in heaven" (then)

Read 1 Peter 1:10-11. What did the prophets do? _____

What did the Spirit of Christ in them predict? _____

What would be the "glories that would follow" _____

Read 1 Peter 1:21. Why do we believe in God? _____

Read 1 Peter 2:19-21. How does the suffering of Christ serve us as an example?

Read 1 Peter 2:24. Why did Jesus bear our sins? _____

Read 1 Peter 3:17-22. Why did Christ die for sins, once for all? _____

Through whom was Christ made alive? _____

Then what did He do? _____

How does baptism now save us? _____

Read 1 Peter 4:12-13. How do we “participate in the sufferings of Christ”?

When will this suffering for Christ be “repaid/rewarded”?
