

Christ's Resurrection Personalized

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Robert P. Myers

Acts 13:23 Of this man's seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

Acts 13:24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

Acts 13:25 And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not *he*. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose.

Acts 13:26 Men *and* brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

Acts 13:27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*.

Acts 13:28 And though they found no cause of death *in him*, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.

Acts 13:29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took *him* down from the tree, and laid *him* in a sepulchre.

Acts 13:30 But God raised him from the dead:

Every year about this time, preachers everywhere focus their congregations on the gospel account of the resurrection of Christ. We look again at that awesome and miraculous thing that happened at the site of Joseph of Arimathaea's new tomb and we hope that the people of God will marvel again at this great event. And this is indeed, the most pivotal moment in the history of humanity. At this point in the events happening on earth, God brings to pass what affects both time and eternity; the resurrection of the Messiah from His substitutionary death. There is no other event in the history of earth that demands more attention. There is no other event in the history of earth on which the fate of the eternal souls human beings depends. This IS the moment for man. When Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God the Father, an act of God occurred which has the power to change everything in the lives of every person who contemplates this event as an act of mercy and grace by the Creator.

We as preachers sometimes get so caught up in the actual historical experience of the day of our Lord's resurrection that we may fail to personalize the event for hearers. So, today, I want to make Christ's resurrection take on a personal meaning for each of you. Because, without personalizing it, you may miss what can make the facts related to His rising from the dead to be precious, priceless, pivotal information for you. So, let's look at some personal things that our Lord's resurrection should mean to you.

Factual Note: The Greek word translated "Easter" in **Acts 12:4** appears 29 times in the NT. Of those 29 times, it is translated "Passover" 28 times. Only once is it translated out Easter, and that title only appeared in the Tyndale and Coverdale bibles and as a result found its way into the KJV. The actual Greek word is a direct reference to the Jewish Passover. Easter is a pagan term

used by pagans to denote a pagan holiday that occurred at the same time as the Jewish Passover (which predates the pagan festival by more than a thousand years).

I. It means justification from sin for every one who believes; that is, being given credit for being totally right in the presence of God:

- **Rom. 4:25** Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.
- We find this explained in Romans 4 in terms of righteousness where scripture talks about Abraham believing God and that belief being counted for righteousness:
 - Rom. 4:20** He (Abraham) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
 - Rom. 4:21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.
 - Rom. 4:22** And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.
 - Rom. 4:23** Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;
 - Rom. 4:24** But **for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if** we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
 - God must be believed on as the one who raised Jesus from the dead.
 - When we believe that He is that God, then we have exercised faith in God and Christ, who are possessed of at least two things; that God is able to resurrect the dead; and that Jesus Christ was resurrected for our justification.

II. It means escape from a state where the physical person rots in the grave and then is raised out of the grave to be judged and cast into the lake of fire (remind hearers of the great and dreadful end-time event explained in **Rev. 20**)

- **2Cor. 4:14** Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall **raise up us also by Jesus**, and shall present *us* with you.
 - 1Cor. 6:14** And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.
- **Rom. 8:11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

III. It means the burial of a physical body is turned into the resurrections of a spiritual body

- **1Cor. 15:44** It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. **1Cor. 15:42** So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

IV. It means that God sees our resurrection as already accomplished.

- **Eph. 2:5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Eph. 2:6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

V. It means the dishonor of death is turned into glory

- **1Cor. 15:43** It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory:

VI. It means the weakness plainly obvious in death is turned into power

- Again **1Cor. 15:43** - "...it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:"

VII. It means a fair and full judgment of all men by that same Christ:

- **Acts 17:31** Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
 - ▶ (Note carefully here that the assurance of a coming judgment of the whole world by Jesus Christ is given to men by the Lord IN THAT HE RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD...that is, the resurrection IS the assurance that a final and full judgment will occur).