

He is Risen!

Read: Matthew 28:1-10

Summary:

The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus died; he was publicly crucified and trained soldiers checked he was dead before removing Him from the cross. Then they placed the body in a sealed tomb and posted a guard outside. Yet on the Sunday morning the ladies go and discover an empty tomb! Jesus appears to his disciples, ate with them, walked with them: in fact he was seen by over 500 people!

The Resurrection is central to the whole of the New Testament, the early church, all believers. We believe that it is the central point of all eternity!

The resurrection proves Jesus is who he said he was

Jesus never claimed just to be a good man, a wise teacher or a kind caring healer. Jesus always said that he would die and rise again. (After all a living faith cannot survive a dead saviour) Jesus is unique... others he raised later died but Jesus rose and will never die!

The resurrection of Jesus deals with sin

The resurrection gives us new life (1 Peter 1:3) and also gives us power to live the Christian life (Philippians 3:10) and the resurrection makes us right to stand before a Holy God (Romans 4:25)

The work is complete; there is no more penalty to pay, no more wrath to bear, no more guilt to be removed... it is job done!

The resurrection provides hope that we will also rise

We can have supreme confidence about life after death. We know that the power that raised Christ from the dead will also raise us (1 Corinthians 6:14). In fact Jesus was the first fruit of the guaranteed harvest (1 Corinthians 15:20)

The bible tells us how many different people responded to the news that Jesus rose.... The soldiers (ignorant), Jews (cover up), women (trembled & terrified), disciples (confused and did not understand), angels (pass on the facts)... it was Mary who fell at his feet in worship

Application:

1. Was there anything shared on Sunday that needs clarifying for you?
2. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
3. In what ways does the resurrection of Jesus make a difference in your life?
4. Would it matter if Jesus did not physically rise? Why?
5. What worries do you have regarding death?
6. If Jesus is the only way to God, what happens to those who follow other faiths?
7. Why not pray for each other now that you might know more of God's power.