

Parson to Person **Resurrection Sunday 2022**

Over the years I have come to see that everything we believe about the faith (and the worldview we embrace) is linked to the resurrection of Jesus. The fact that we accept Jesus' claims about creation, marriage between one man and one woman, sin, sickness, suffering, death, and a future life beyond what we know in the temporal world today, all rest on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead.

Many faith leaders and religious figures claim truths and philosophies, but none have made claims about their own divinity—supported by wisdom, lifestyle, miraculous supernatural powers, and most notably their own death, the type of death they would suffer—even foreshadowing the exact time and place, the duration of time they would be in the grave, and their own physical resurrection from the dead. No one has—and no one will! Only Jesus!

Any thinking person, who will take the time to examine the evidence, will come to accept the very reliable proof that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead—and then (as the result) find true everything else He did and said.

Apologetics experts and all serious students of truth will come to recognize that everything Jesus said and did

rests on the resurrection; thus, every person should take the time to examine the evidences.

Every year I develop a lesson for the Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. This year I want to examine the resurrection from the perspective of John.

John wrote The Gospel of John, the three letters (epistles) of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Within these documents we learn much about how John viewed Jesus. He believed that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead and not only watched thousands of men and women give their lives in defense of this truth, but he himself, having seen with his own eyes, testified to Jesus' resurrection up to the very end of his life—without a waver or recantation.

No one would watch untold thousands crucified, burned, sawn in two, skinned alive, beheaded, and otherwise suffer—as thousands did, in defense of a lie. John was no exception! He defended the resurrection with the claim that he had seen with his own eyes, heard with his own ears, and physically touched with his own hands, the resurrected Messiah. If he knew that Jesus was indeed dead, there would be no need to perpetuate such a lie coupled together with such great consequences. This fact I find compelling. You should too!

This Sunday we will examine the following:

1) John's Post-Resurrection/Pre-Ascension Experience with Jesus (Gospel of John—85–90 A.D.)

- a. John's Witness to the Empty Tomb—First Believed in the Resurrection (John 20:5–9)
- b. Jesus' Appearance to the Assembled Disciples—Thomas Absent (John 20:19–25) (A Sunday Evening)
- c. Jesus' Appearance to the Assembled Disciples—The Following Sunday (John 20:26–31)
- d. Jesus' Appearance at the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1–14)
- e. John's Concluding Testimony (John 21:24–25)

2) John's Experience with Thousands of Martyrs (1 John—33–98 A.D.)

- a. The Death of All the Other Apostles
- b. The Thousands of Martyrs
- c. The Death of John Himself 98 A.D.

3) John's Experience with the Glorified Messiah (The Book of the Revelation—94–95 A.D.)

4) John's Damnable Testimony—If Indeed He was A False Witness

5) John's Recitation

“And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe” (John 19:35 NKJV).

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31 NKJV).

Jesus is indeed alive and for this reason—among many—we rejoice!

I love you all,
Pastor Paul