

Jesus Came Back to Life to Give You a Brand New Life

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I. Introduction

On this day Christians worldwide celebrate a dead guy coming back to life. Why? What's so important about Jesus coming back to life, why does it matter? Avoiding hell is an awesome benefit, but not the main reason for Jesus' resurrection. Jesus essentially says that He came to die for your sins so that He could free you from everything that's wrong in your life.

II. Jesus Came Back to Life to Remove Everything That's Wrong in Your Life

Jesus' resurrection saves you from hell...but it's not the main point,

The sin problem, many think that sin is man's problem. Even after some become Christians, they still think that sin lurks somewhere in the shadows waiting to drag them down to hell. Sin is not what sends you to hell. Why? Because Jesus paid for ALL sin (John 1:29; 1 John 2:2).

The death problem, sin may not be man's problem, but death is. How will you escape death? The only way to escape death is life, but you need life that lasts forever. Jesus promised this kind of life to all who believe in Him (John 1:12; 3:15, 16, 36; 4:14; 5:24; 6:47, et al.) and He guaranteed that death couldn't hold Him (John 2:19). Because Jesus is life (John 14:6; 1 John 1:1-2) three days later, He came back from the dead, in fact, Jesus now owns the keys of death (Revelation 1:18).

The Final Judgment problem, there will be one, but if you've trusted Jesus as your Savior, you won't face that Judgment because that Judgment is for dead people not those who have eternal life (John 5:24). However, if you reject Christ and try to make it on your own merit, a sad reality awaits: NO ONE is "good enough," case in point: the Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-22) and everyone else who tries to make it on their own (Revelation 20:11-15).

The "But what if I live in sin after becoming a Christian?" problem, some believe that if you live a life of sin as a Christian, you'll end up in hell. Is this true? NO, not one bit. **First**, even if you walk away from the Lord after He's given you eternal life, you'll still be saved because to deny you salvation is to deny Himself (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Timothy 2:11-13). **Second**, is God OK with us living in sin after He's given us eternal life? NO, not one bit. Can you lie, cheat, and murder as a Christian? Sure, but there will be a consequence, not in the afterlife, in this life (Romans 1:18; Galatians 6:7). You can rape and pillage but God's discipline will be right behind you (Romans 13:1-7; Hebrews 12:6). But what if you get away with it? You don't, every sin comes with its own misery, e.g., you cheat on your wife and it looks like you got away with it. Think again, not only is it rotting you from the inside out and affecting your wife and kids—they see you abuse or ignore her and it begins to shape them—you miss out on true love and intimacy because you threw yours in the gutter (Proverbs 5:16). **Third**, if your child lies, cheats, and murders does that make him no longer your child? NO, not one bit. He's a rebellious child, a disobedient child, but a child nonetheless. Your spiritual birth (as your physical birth) does not depend on your work. You can't do anything to earn *or keep* your salvation; God gave birth to you (James 1:18) and nothing can snatch you out of His hand, not even you (John 10:22-30).

Jesus' resurrection gives you a brand new life...especially when it sucks, we call Jesus the Savior, why? Because Jesus came to save us, not just from a place called hell, He came to save us from EVERYTHING! What are you struggling with right now? A bad marriage, a miserable job, a frantic search for love and acceptance (for approval), you wish you had more money, a better house, a better car, better job, better friends, better kids? What would you change if you could wave a wand? You wish you weren't so overweight? Do you think that unless you're a certain weight, people won't like you, you won't get the right girl/guy? Jesus can help you with all of these, even lose weight.

Jesus came to save us from the real reason behind our weight, depression, anxiety, bad marriage, bad kids, bad job, bad boss, etc., etc. Jesus will show you the real reason why you're overweight. How many of us eat when we're sad, when we're depressed, when we're anxious, when we're hurting? Why do we do that? Because it brings us a little comfort in the midst of our pain. Jesus came to free us from this.

Look what He does with the woman at the well in John 4 and notice everything He does: **1)** He needs to go to Galilee but He purposely goes through Samaria which is not the route Jews would take since Samaritans and Jews hate each other (4:4), **2)** it's about noon and He picks Jacob's well as His rest stop (4:6), **3)** Jesus speaks to her (4:7) breaking several conventions: rabbis don't talk to women alone, she's a Samaritan and He's a Jew, Jesus is willing to drink from the same vessel, and she's drawing water in the heat of the day instead of the morning with the other women, which means they're shunning her because of immorality (which Jesus knows), **4)** Jesus took this detour to offer this woman everlasting life (4:9-15); He doesn't want her to go to hell, but He also wants something much more for her, **5)** Jesus gets very personal and zeros in on her real problem: she thinks she needs a husband to be complete; her salvation is a man. She's had 5 and she's shacking up with a 6th (4:16-18). It's not that Jesus doesn't want her to have a husband; it's not that He doesn't want you to have a great marriage, job, kids, house, etc. He does, but not as your Savior. When we make anything our Savior other than God, it will suck the life right out of us, **6)** she tries to change the subject, but Jesus brings her back to the only thing that will save her: Him (4:19-26).

What does all this have to do with Jesus' resurrection? If Jesus didn't come back from the dead, He can't help us with anything, not one bit. He's just another dead guy who was crucified by the Romans. He's not God, He's not the Savior of the world who pays for your sins. He's nobody and we shouldn't believe in Him because He's either a liar or a lunatic, but He's certainly not Lord of ALL. However, the fact remains that Jesus was crucified and His tomb was found empty and this evidence is not just in the Bible.¹

III. Conclusion

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.

¹ Jewish historian Josephus (Antiquities 18:3), Roman historian Tacitus (Annals 15:44), Lucian of Samosata (The Death of Peregrine 11-13), Mara bar Serapion (from a letter to his son at the British Museum), and even the Talmud corroborate the early Christian eyewitness accounts that Jesus was executed in Judea in the 1st Century A.D., under Pontius Pilate, by means of crucifixion, at the behest of the Jewish Sanhedrin, and that His tomb was found empty.