

WHAT RELEVANCE DOES RESURRECTION HAVE ON US TODAY?

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GREETINGS: It is such a blessing for me to bring you the Gospel of God's Grace. We are going to be talking about the Resurrection and the effect that the Resurrection has on people's lives today.

We are gathering around the truth, the message of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Him manifesting His kingdom in this world when we can be the recipients of that kingdom and also experience what it is like to see God bringing forth His kingdom in and through us. Glory to God!

PRAYER: Father, I want to thank You so much that I can bring the Gospel of Your grace, the influence that You have on humans, bringing peace to people's lives. Lord, when we look at the world and we look at the panic that the whole world is in because of something like the coronavirus, and we look at the fear that even the Church lives in, we know that we need to share Your Gospel and preach Your Gospel so that peace can come to people's lives.

Thank You so much for giving us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ and that we can behold that and see the power of Your kingdom in us. Thank You for that Lord, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen and amen...

Today's Message

Today I am going to be preaching on the effect of believing that you will be **bodily** raised in your life today. What effect will it have on you today believing that you will be bodily raised in the Day of Jesus Christ?

I've asked myself this question many times especially when I just got into this message. The first time I started to think of the Gospel along the lines of the kingdom of God on the earth and we being made eternally mortal was around 2000, That was when I was introduced to this message and started to think along those lines. One of the first things that came to my mind is, "Yes, I do believe that I will be bodily raised in the Day of Jesus Christ and them that is now dealt with. We put that on the back burner and now we are going on with things that matter for today... Things like the power of the Holy Spirit, the preaching of the Gospel. People need to get saved. They need to go to heaven and not hell." My life was shaped around other things **but** the bodily resurrection. It was almost as if there was a kind of a dualistic belief in my heart which I find is in the Church at large.

People believe that there will be a bodily resurrection but there is also a thing where we have taken Plato's ideas, Socrates' ideas, the New Age ideas, where we are saying that we are spirits that live in bodies and then we are on our way to heaven one day. Then our salvation, , excludes all the physical things. We are trying to escape the physical and yet we cannot live without the physical. Then when trouble comes in the physical areas here, we are stressing our heads off, like we are seeing what is happening in the world right now with the corona pandemic. What is happening is frightening for most people and it really is rattling their cages in such a way that we are saying that we don't know what to do. I want to say that the effect of knowing that there is a bodily resurrection and that salvation is physical, will change your emotions when it comes about these things like the corona or things like, "The sky is falling!" or things like a massive global financial crisis and all those kind of things. It will change how you feel about those things.

I put some questions down that I've asked myself and then I've got the second set of questions that answer the first questions. I was thinking that it is good to ask those questions and answer them here today.

Before I get into any questions, just for your information, we are in a series where we are going through Romans. At the moment, we are in chapter 8 and we are going to look at verses 12-24. I think these are perfect verses that talk about the effect of the bodily resurrection, our bodily resurrection, one day on us now.

We can have questions like this: Well, I know that I am going to be bodily raised, but I am already the righteousness of God today. So now, why would I make a big fuss of the bodily resurrection one day? It's something that is going to happen one day and we know that it is going to happen one day but now am I the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit? I can now pray in tongues. I now have the gift of healing. I now know that I am loved by God. My identity now is not in my works but in Jesus. Why should there be a big thing made of the bodily resurrection?

We are going to look at that but I can start out by saying that Paul, in **1Corinthians 15:19** says, "If there is no resurrection (talking about us not being raised from the dead one day), we are the most miserable of all people!" So, Paul had all of his joy, all of his comfort, everything he did every day, founded in the fact that he will be raised one day. Glory to God!

Now let us start off with four questions:

1, What effect does hope have on people?

We need to understand that the resurrection, the bodily resurrection. Now I want to say it this way: I even hate to call it the **bodily** resurrection as if other parts of us are resurrected before the resurrection of the body. I would rather call it the resurrection, the coming to life of humans. What effect does hope or the resurrection, knowing that you will be raised one day, have on us? What effect does hope have on people right now?

I read a lot on Google about this. I found that there is a lot of studies done talking about hope in people... hope when it comes to hospitals, sick people, people who have cancer and all those things, Hope is what drives them today. The hope of being healed of cancer is what gives them the power to get out of bed today. The hope of being healed of cancer is what causes them to have knowledge on how to gather money and take that money and give it for treatment. So, we can say that hope gives people the ability to do business. Hope gives people skills on how to communicate with people so they can see this hope fulfilled. Hope has a massive influence on people's lives today when we talk about cancer. We can talk about the coronavirus. The hope that there is healing for this or that there will be some vaccine or something, hope that this virus can be destroyed is what is driving people today. If there was no hope, you know how this would look.

The question is, "What effect hope have on people today?" **Romans 8:24** says that we are saved by hope. Then Paul talks about the resurrected body as the hope of the church. We are, today, saved by having a confident expectation of bodily resurrection. Now, if we say, and I include myself into that passage years ago, if we say, "Well, what effect does the bodily resurrection one day have on me now?" Basically, nothing because I know it will happen back then but now, I have a life to live. We are differing from how Paul saw the whole salvation plan.

Paul found that what saves him today, from living in the flesh, from being scared of persecution and all those kinds of things, what saves him today from not knowing what to say to people who are leaders in politics, and all those kinds of things, is the hope of bodily resurrection. Paul fully connected what he does every day with the hope of bodily resurrection. He did not see himself as something separate from his body. He saw himself as a human and he knew that there is a human in the Godhead that has conquered all death and the Spirit of that eternal life is now on Him. From there, he has eloquent speech. He has power in the Spirit. He has wisdom and knowledge and know in how to treat people.

Like when he was in Areopagus standing in defense of his belief, what did he say? He wisely spoke of the resurrection! He wisely spoke of the hope of Christians. He didn't come to try and say, "Well, you are innocent before God", or any of those kinds of things. He didn't come with the typical Gospel message that we have that God is angry, Jesus died for you, you can now repent of your sins, and so forth. No! Paul preached the resurrection of the dead! He preached it inside a court that was founded on the slogan that says, "Once a man's blood is spilled, he can never live again!" He preached the resurrection right there and he explained everything about religion. He spoke about temples built by hands. He talked about man's service to God and God's service to man... everything from the perspective of the bodily resurrection and the hope. Everything that Paul did in his whole speech in Acts 17, in his speeches in Acts 15, his encounter that he had in Acts 9... everything was found on the physical resurrection of humans and its effect on people's lives today.

So, the question that I would have is, "What effect does hope have on people?" If we don't have any hope, there is no life for us now.

Let us look at people that were caught in a storm and their little boat sank and they were on a life raft. What role does hope play in their lives? In psychology today, you will see they have what is called, "Hope Therapy". They give people hope because people with hope, heal quicker than other people. People, with hope, get healed from depression. People, with hope, get healed from cancer. Medicine works much better in people who have hope. The hope is connected in medicine on the bodily or the physical healing of the person. If someone has cancer, what hope can you give him? You give him the hope of healing from the cancer and should he have hope, you find the medicine works much better today. So, that is just one of the questions: What effect does hope have on people?

There are two forms of hope: the Christian hope and then the hope that Socrates offered, which I believe is also a Satanic hope. Satan's hope was, "You can live forever and you will never die! You are already an eternal, inherently immortal being. God is just lying! You will not die! You will live forever. There is some part of you that is already existing inherently." That's what Socrates said and then Plato came and then we find Plato's theories changing over time from before Christ until about the third century, we found changes. But then we also got people like Plutarch which had a little bit of a different view and he wrote this thing where he said, "Oh, how my soul longs to go to heaven." That is basically where the Church is today where the hope is not in the resurrection and in the restoration of the physical human but where the hope became a place you go to. Now, that is not the Christian hope. That is the counterfeit. The counterfeit is the message wherein we have hope as a destination of our soul and not hope as a recreation or a new creation where the whole physical human being is recreated.

Let me put it this way: Let's take the coronavirus and quickly talk a little bit about hope. I would say that a high percentage of the people who live in utmost fear when it comes to this coronavirus, live in utmost fear because of a lack of understanding of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope that there is in the physical. Because our hope has been spiritualized to the point that hope is where your soul goes when you die, living in heaven. We have physical bodies, physical brains, a mind and all those kinds of things. The physical says, "I'm happy for you, soul, and you know you feel all well and going to heaven. But, what about me?" And then we don't answer the body. We don't have any hope for the body. We just try to silence it and just think of heaven all the time and then we think on how many masks we can buy, how many gloves we can buy and how we can't get into close proximity to any other people and try to protect our bodies by our own power and by our own wits.

Should we come to a place where this whole thing of, "Where does my soul go when I die?", and get that out of our minds where it is non-existent to the point that our hope is, as Paul preached, the resurrection of the human to ever live in a glorified state in the fulness of God. If that is our hope, you will find that everything inside you that is physical will not scream for protection all the time for it knows how it is protected and preserved forever.

So, I want to say that if we take the body resurrection hope away and we put it on the back burner, that it is basically not something that we think of every day, we will be bound by fear. If we are not bound by fear, because you might say you are not bound by fear you know that you are going to heaven, you have a hope and you do have something that numbs your pain but it's not based in the salvation plan. It is based in Platonism. It's based in a New Age philosophy. It's not based in what God brought in Jesus Christ.

2. If people have no hope, how would joy and peace be possible?

3. How would rational thoughts outside of being in survival mode be possible?

What happens if we don't see the salvation of the human, the whole human being, if we don't see that, how will we have rational thoughts? The only kind of rational thought we'll have is thoughts that are born from survival mode in trying to preserve your own physical life on this earth by things you do in how you behave, and how, like I said, you buy masks and gloves and all those kinds of things. You're not going to have that.

4 What relevance does love have on people today?

The Bible says in **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish* (meaning bodily decay forever), *but have everlasting life* (that they would live forever, as humans, never to die!)

My goodness! That is what John calls love! If we don't have a message, where in the absolute full focus is on the resurrection, our immortality, bodily, from where we inherit the kingdom and so share in the life of God, we will not feel loved. We will want to feel loved by trying to take Christianity, Christian talk, mix it into our lingo by all the time saying how special I am, how God loves me just the way I am and all those kinds of things instead of feeling loved because God has fabricated a way where there can be a recreation, preserving, all of us, eternally. Where I don't have to feel loved because I receive "Nike shoes". Where I don't have to feel loved as a Christian because I live in a nice house or drive a nice car. Where I can feel loved because God has shown value to me as a person and showed how He will preserve me forever in raising Jesus from the dead and so promise me eternal existence for He wants me forever!

Like Pastor Gerald said the other day when he preached in our church in Malmesbury. He said, "When the prophets prophesied, God walked His walk with Noah, God walked His walk with Abraham, He walked with the Israelites, the major, minor, prophets and all those things, prophesied about Jesus, bring Jesus forth, Jesus died, He was raised from the dead as a physical human, He's got an empty grave.....so that God can make sure that you will be able to drive the latest car!" No! The reason why all that was said was for a much bigger gift. The gift is eternal life for me... as a human! We need to know that we don't have eternal life inherently and it's given as a gift.

Should we have this hope of resurrection, from that, the Spirit of that truth will shape our lives today in having relevance in how we do business, how we treat our wives and children, how we love one another and should something happen like coronavirus, that we will not 'fall under the bus'... Oh, what will we do? What are we going to do?" Hey, I've got eternal life! I want to tell you that if you already know how you had eternal life, bodily, and not just "spiritually", your body will not start to scream. Your body will not run off to the news all the time. Your body will know that it is okay. It is fine and the Spirit of God can tell your body what to do today, in a twinkling of an eye, you just have wisdom just to do the right thing in that day and you will be okay. It will not be a continuous stress.

After years of having the resurrection and the hope of immortality as the center of my reading of the Gospel, other questions came forth answering the first questions.

Should there not be a bodily resurrection, would we be righteous today? Think of it this way. You might say, "I am already the righteousness. Yes, there will be a resurrection but now I am the righteousness of God. But now I have the Holy Spirit. But now I see the fruit of the Spirit in me. But now I am in freedom from bondage today. Now I have faith in God. Now I know that I am loved. Now I am the body of Christ. Now I am the righteousness of God." Now the question is this: Should there not have been a bodily resurrection or the resurrection of the human, if that would not take place would you still be righteous today? Would you still have the Holy Spirit today? Would you see the fruit of the Spirit today? Would you live in freedom from bondage of sin in the flesh today? Do you know what the answer is? No! The answer is no.

The question can also be asked this way: Should Jesus have lived a holy life, died for our sins and wasn't raised but His Spirit went to heaven, would we be the righteousness of God? If the inner man, the soul, went to heaven and His body wasn't raised, would we be able to say today that we will have the fruit of the Spirit? Would we be able to have faith? Because, remember, faith is the substance of things hoped for and the Christian hope is the resurrection. So, would you be able to have faith, a confident persuasion that God can do what He promised to do, if there was no bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ? Would you be the body of Christ? Another question: Would you be the righteous of God? No, you would not have been. Would we have the power to stand in persecution as the early church did? No, we would not.

I want to say it this way: You would not be righteous. You would not be saved. You would not have freedom from the fruit of the flesh. You would have none of those things. You would not have any form of holiness. You would have none of those things should Jesus not have been bodily raised from the dead for salvation is of the body. I hate using the word, body, because of our New Age mindsets that we have. We have this mindset of spirit, soul and body which comes from Pythagoras which had a mathematical formula whereby he tried to explain that humans are spirits and that we need to be saved from our bodies and all of that nonsense!

God has declared who and what we are in Jesus. Jesus died. Jesus rose. The one that was dead is now alive and He is Lord and He has promised life to us. We believe it!

I believe Jesus was raised and so shall I have, as a full human, eternal life. No part of me has eternal life. The only way that I can have eternal life is by Jesus giving it to me through the power of the Resurrection. I have now believed upon Him and the Spirit of eternal life is on me and that Spirit is also, right now, fixing and healing my flesh to the point that I am seeing Romans 8 taking place. We are mortifying the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit, which is the power of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from where God is manifesting His kingdom in this world. Glory to God!

So, I want to say to you that you would not be righteous. You would not have the Holy Spirit for the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to bring forth immortality to your body. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to end sin in the flesh. There will be no purpose.

Let us go quickly to that beautiful encounter Paul had with Jesus in Acts 9. When Jesus appeared to him, what did he say? He said, "Who are You, Lord?" He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. It is difficult for you to kick against the goads in your heart." He said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" But Paul wasn't persecuting Jesus. He was persecuting people, the Church, people who believe that God was raised from the dead. He was persecuting them having a letter to take them captive to Jerusalem. He then came to the bottom line conclusion that this physical raised person, that is also physically standing before him, that the people that he is persecuting is also as much part of that physical body as what He has a physical body. They are absolutely one and he came to the conclusion that these people are the body of Christ and they have the hope of the Resurrection. From there Paul preached the resurrection. Paul had no other Gospel but the Resurrection. He was preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom which is the message of God's kingdom bringing bodily eternal life to people. And that is how God reigns and rules over sin and death making the enemies of Christ His footstool in giving us eternal life. If we should understand this and we see all the physical things that we deal with in this world, our lives would not start to fall apart when we see there is not enough toilet paper in the shopping mall.

When it comes to the coronavirus, let me just tell Christians this: You can prep all you like but, remember after you've prepped, if you are a Christian, you are going to share everything with your brothers. You're going to give it all away because how are you going to live with a love of God in your heart, having enough food for you and your household and your neighbor has nothing. As long as you know that you are prepping to give to others, that's how it is going to work in Christianity. That means, "Oh, my goodness! That means that I might still not have enough! Where am I going to get life?" Hallelujah!

Now we get into the true question: **Where are we going to get life?** It's good to say that I'm going to go to heaven and live there one day, hallelujah, and that makes me happy but my body is screaming for life!" Well the question is, "Where will my body get life?" Hallelujah!

We see in **2Corinthians 4:6** *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness* (Remember in the beginning was the heaven and the earth and the earth was without form and God said, "Let there be light." Paul is now having the recreation, the new creation language here.), *hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of She knowledge* (So what is He shining in our hearts to have? To have the light of the knowledge. So we have the light. Our hearts were dark but now light shone into our hearts. What is this light? It is the knowledge *of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*. What does that mean? He says what illuminates me, today, is the knowledge that the glory of God, meaning immortality, eternal life, is shining in the face of a human. In other words, we can put it this way: (Oh, this makes me so happy!) *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness* (Who created the heaven and the earth, has brought a new creation forth through bringing the knowledge of immortality now, bodily, in Jesus Christ. And that life is now in me. I've got a revelation that if it's shining in the face of the human Jesus, it gives me the hope that I will shine like Him! Hallelujah!

8 *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

He is saying that we have this treasure, this revelation, right now, in our mortal bodies. We are knowing that the glory of God shines in the face of a human and we are saying, "Well, if Jesus could contract eternal life, we can also!"

Let me explain it this way: How does bodily resurrection in the future change our lives today? Let's talk about this coronavirus again. If we talk about a sickness that only animals can get, let's say there is some disease that only a wild dog can get, for instance. And, it is somewhere in Africa, and we know about this deadly virus that can kill these animals. How would that change how you shop every day? It would mean nothing to you. Why? Because it is for dogs. It doesn't include you. It's a deadly disease. It kills dogs easily. It's very contagious and all those kinds of things. But the moment you find out that you are seeing the death of that disease now shining in the face of a man, all of a sudden you realize humans can also get that, your whole life changes. Why? Because you are a human. What is true for the human that got it becomes true for you and you know that you can also get it. All of a sudden somebody on the other side of the world, that has a disease as a human and because you are a human, all of a sudden your life is born from the reality of death in his flesh, Now, Church, how much more if we can see what Paul is talking about here!

2Corinthians 3:

6 *Who also has made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life.*

7 *But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:*

8 *How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?*

15 *But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.*

16 *Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.*

Now the key verse:

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

18 But we all, with open face (We haven't put a mask on where we cannot contract eternal life, we now), **with an open face beholding** (the "eternal life disease" that Jesus as a human contracted when the Father raised Him from the dead and we with an open face are beholding the glory of God in the face of a man and He is breathing over us! He's coughing over us, if we want to call it that way to understand language that was so dear to us these days.

(What is He doing? He's shining over us.) **as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory** (What glory? We see the glory of God shining in the immortal Jesus, the physical man Jesus. And as you look at that, not as you put it on the back burner and look at what you have today and now I'm the righteousness of God and all that. As you continually look at the bodily resurrection of Jesus and see that as your hope, never try to confuse yourself with a tripartite thing where you think, "I am a spirit or I am a soul, living in a body." But where you are saying, "I'm a human and I'm seeing God saves the lives of humans and even if I should die, I shall be raised from the dead!" If you have that confidence that gets born from that reality, you will find that it shapes your life every day. Glory to God!

I think we have laid a good foundation to get into Romans 8:12, but we have run out of time. This is basically what I want to say so let me summarize:

What effect does the knowledge of being raised from the dead one day, have on us today? As we behold it and think of it, we are changed into the very same image as by the power that brought that image forth right now. And we find as what Paul says in Romans 8, which we've dealt with in the previous three Sundays, that we are then led forth or manifests it forth or brought unto the stage, by the Holy Spirit wherein we find the Spirit is now mortifying the deeds of the flesh. And we find that our minds don't go crazy when we see certain things on the news. We find that we find peace in our hearts. We find that we find generosity and kindness and love and all those things, coming forth in us. Why? Because we have taken off our masks and we now go to the man that contracted the eternal life, "disease", as we call it like that, and we look at this, not from a perspective of where's Jesus' Spirit, but what happened to Him bodily. And we say, "Breathe on us, Lord!" And then He breathed on us and His breath, His Spirit, enters into us and we are contracting the very same thing, called eternal life! Hallelujah! Glory to God!

We've come to the end of this message. I would like to hammer away for another hour but we will do that next Sunday. Look into the truth of bodily resurrection. Let's get this Platonic teaching, the teaching that comes from Socrates, the teaching that comes from the time of the Greek people and all of that which was all born in Satan which says that there is a part of us is immortal and another part is not and all of that. Let's get that out of our minds. Let's look at the Word, Jesus. Read Hebrews chapter 1. In the old day, God spoke through the prophets and He spoke through the scriptures. He spoke through many ways to the people but in these days, He has spoken to us through His Son! When you read Hebrews, he defines Son as the Resurrected One who sat down at the right hand of God.

If you want to know what God has to say, look at the man Jesus at the right hand of God because now He is speaking from there! If you don't look at the bodily Resurrection and your hope of bodily resurrection every day, you are not hearing God's voice for you, my friend! God loves us and He has come to preserve our lives for evermore! Amen