

The Resurrection Means Forgiveness

Promise: Jesus claim to forgive sins is vindicated by His Resurrection
Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 16; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10
(Easter Sunday, 4/12/20)

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. — Acts 10:43

Lead In – The Apostle Peter declared in Acts 10 that the Apostles had been commanded by the Risen Christ to proclaim to the people that God appointed his Son Jesus to be the judge of the living and the dead. We confess this very thing in the Creed when we say, “he will come again to judge the living and the dead.” Now it is a fearful thing to stand before the judgment seat of Christ...

I. How The Judgment Is Pictured In Scripture

- A. Jesus said that he would come in judgement...
- B. All the dead raised and the books are opened...
- C. Christ came first that we not be condemned...

II. Anyone Can Say “Your Sins Are Forgiven,” But

- A. The paralytic brought to Jesus to be healed...
- B. The Risen Jesus came offering forgiveness...
- C. The Risen Jesus commissioned Apost witness!

III. The Resurrection Means Forgiveness. It is Proof!

- A. The consequence of sin is death, by definition...
- B. Luther is right in one of his explanations...
- C. Proof that atoning sacrifice was sufficient!

Parting Shot – Of course it always comes down to this with the Easter Faith of Christianity. Do we believe the Apostolic Witness of Jesus’ Resurrection? And it is not just a matter of believing *that* Jesus rose, but that we believe *in* the One who died and rose again. Do we trust *in* Jesus to forgive our sinful rebellion and to give us His victory over sin, death, and the devil? If you are not baptized, it means repenting, believing, and being baptized. For the baptized, it means ever relying on the one who died and rose for us. We ever rely on Him by hearing His Word, participating in His Sacrament at the Altar, and constantly confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness. All made possible because, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”

Mt 25:31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

Jn 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Rev 20:11-12, 15 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ... And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Matthew 28:1-10 ESV

The Resurrection

¹Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Jn 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Lk 5:24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.”

Jn 20:21-23 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

Lk 24:45-47 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mt 27:51-53 And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.

For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. — Luther in SC

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