“CHRIST AROSE”

Psalm 16:9-11 (CEV). 4/20/25

i. Happy Easter! Or Happy Resurrection Sunday! Every Sunday is. Really appropriate to celebrate resurrection every day of our lives. Resurrection of Jesus Christ. All about him.

I. THE RESURRECTION VALIDATED AND VINDICATED JESUS AND ALL HE SAID AND DID

(Here comment on Ps. 16; life, etc.)---“I and the Father are one.” –‘Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” ---"No one comes to the Father but by me”—“I am the light of the world”--

“I am the resurrection and the life” –“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.”—“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days”

“I tell you that something greater than the temple is here”---“For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath”---

Paul-New Testament–“The fulness of the Godhead dwelt bodily in him”—“God was in Jesus Christ on the cross, reconciling the world to himself”---"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins”

II. JESUS IS MORE THAN A MEANS TO AN END, HE IS THE END AND PURPOSE OF ALL THINGS

Too often utilitarian faith—useful to get what we want; ‘Single person might go church get spouse;’ —**A**. ‘Parents may take young children Sunday school mostly so they become well behaved teenagers’—Not primarily seekers after Truth; --‘I am the truth’—witness to the truth’—He is his own end;

--Personal happiness as an end:--Paris Reidhead, pastor/teacher Missionary-Africa, pictures suffering, leprosy, starvation; desire get to heaven after so much suffering here.—But they weren’t wanting to hear about Christ or Bible. Knew more about heaven than he’d given them credit, and they didn’t want to go there but loved their sin and wanted to stay in it. They were going to hell not because hadn’t heard gospel, but sinners who love their sin, (Monsters of Iniquity)—But he prayed and—Heard Jesus—“I didn’t send you there for them and their happiness; for ME!—I loved them and endured agony hell for them don’t I deserve the reward of my suffering? Don’t I deserve those for whom I died?—HERE’s The difference; emphasis First for them; now all for Christ and his glory!—Not to make them happy; but give glory to God—He alone is worthy!—‘All this I have done for you, what will you do for me?:”--

--Paul gave all for Christ; wanted his own people to be saved, ‘I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers,…That they might know the truth and be saved”)—‘I’m going to obey you, and love you and serve you, as long as I live, even if I go to hell at the end of the road, simply because you are worthy to be loved, and obeyed, and served, and I’m not going to try to make a deal with you”

B. utilitarian, means to an end culturally and politically; Is the reason we worship Jesus for our country, to save it? To make people behave better or morally? –Along with the power to enforce such behavior in Jesus’ name? No. ‘While Christians should desire a religious revival because they believe the gospel and Jesus is the truth, they should not expect a revival will lead to the other ends they desire’—Jesus is the be all and end all. He is his own purpose. Christ alone! Truth alone!

C. Glorify him; ‘…give him glory and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water!’—Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Ascribe to the lord the glory due his name!”—“Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”—Glory of God in the resurrection!; Victory over death and the grave, defeating the works of the devil;

D. Man's happiness is not the reason to worship and follow Christ. We get joy and eternal life in him, thrown in when we worship him; But we may suffer here too. But like Job, 'Though he slay me yet will I trust him!'—He is the Lord and God, king of kings. Worthy of all praise. 'God desires all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (so they can praise him and glorify him forever).

Progressives and liberals don't believe in literal resurrection, but say you can find happiness in this life according to your own needs; Fundamentalists believe literal resurrection, but say you can find happiness after this life, go to heaven. Still, emphasis is on personal happiness not glory of God in Christ Jesus. Means to an end, happiness. You'll get joy, but it is in Christ Jesus. 'Got Christ?' got everything

2. Everything good is in Christ alone: Seek him; 1 John 5;--'God has given us eternal life, and the life is in his son"---'This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent'—"I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you…"—'Abide in me..' 'Apart from me you can do nothing'—'Christ in you, the hope of glory'—(*Col. 2:"10*)—'So you have everything when you have Christ, and you are filled with God through your union with Christ..'

1 Cor. 1:30—' you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption." He is our everything.

The resurrection also proves Jesus is…

III. JESUS IS MORE THAN AN EXAMPLE, HE IS THE LORD AND GOD OF ALL CREATION

This year is the 150th anniversary birth Albert Schweitzer. Dr. Africa. Theologian. Won Nobel Peace prize 1952. Christian, but not believe resurrection. Jesus deluded about self-- 'Reverence for Life'. Didn't like to kill bacteria (living thing) dirtiest surgical tools in Africa. Admired for good things he did. Example to young. But, Christ Jesus more than just example.

After resurrection, doubting Thomas, holes in hands, side. Worshipped, 'My Lord and my God'—Jesus deserves worship, praise, glory. Every knee shall bow…

He's not just a good moral teacher; he 'doesn't leave that option open for us.' He is lord and God or he is deluded or worse. Come to him as the God-man, conqueror of death and Satan.

Emphasis today on being a 'Mt. 25 Christian"—I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty gave me drink, naked clothed me, sick visited me.' All good things to do to help those in physical need, but our need is on a higher plain w/ Christ—'Blessed are those who hunger & thirst after righteousness, they shall be filled.' "Whoever comes to me and believes in me shall never hunger'—"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from mouth of God."—'In the beginning was the word." "I am the bread of life" ---Worship him! Glorify him!—Instead of Mt. 25 Christians, Let us be John 6:27 Christians—"Don't work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you"--

Christianity cannot be reduced to simply an example to follow; Christ is God of all creation; 'In Him all things hold together"—"All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created."—With Jesus it is all or nothing at all. Then what shall we do?

IV. LET JESUS ALWAYS BE OCCUPYING ALL YOUR THOUGHTS

Philippians 4:8—'focus your thoughts on what is true, noble, righteous, pure, lovable or admirable, on some virtue or on something praiseworthy.' That is Jesus Christ. The truth, our righteousness, who alone is praiseworthy. May resurrection Sunday be for you the experience of everyday, and may all your thoughts be on him, to the glory and praise of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Amen.