



The Resurrection (3)

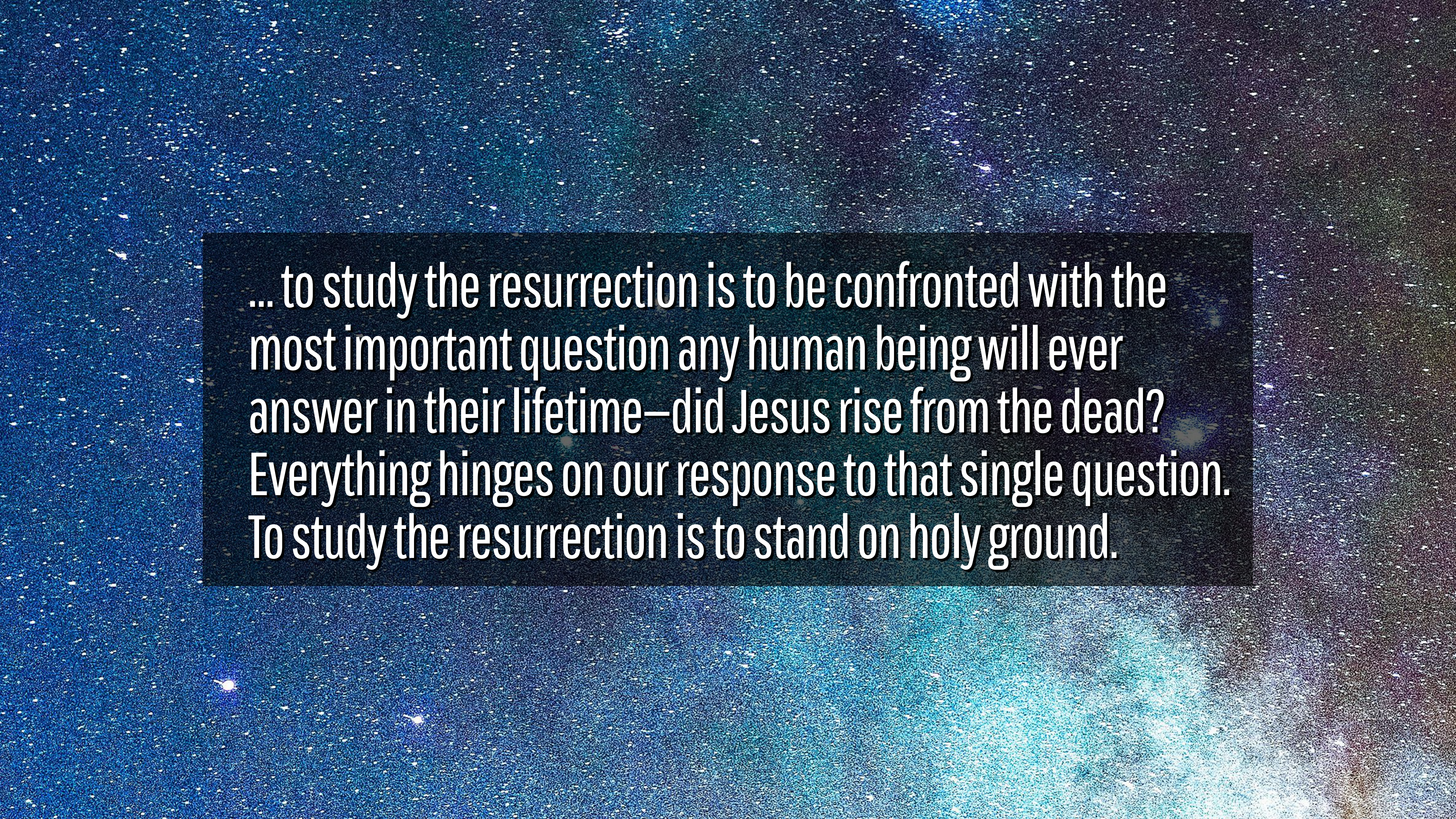
The Power of the Resurrection in Salvation

1 Corinthians 15:3-5

3. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
4. that He was buried, that He was raised [bodily] on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,
5. and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of the resurrection lies at its very heart. If you remove the resurrection, Christianity is destroyed.

John Stott



... to study the resurrection is to be confronted with the most important question any human being will ever answer in their lifetime—did Jesus rise from the dead? Everything hinges on our response to that single question. To study the resurrection is to stand on holy ground.

Reflecting the other day upon the sad state of the churches at the present moment, I was led to look back to apostolic times, and to consider wherein the preaching of the present day differed from the preaching of the apostles. I was surprised to find that I had not been copying the apostolic fashion half as nearly as I might have done. The apostles when they preached always testified concerning the resurrection of Jesus, and the consequent resurrection of the dead. [This] is a doctrine which we believe, but which we too seldom preach or care to read about.

Charles Spurgeon

Though I have inquired of several booksellers for a book specially upon the subject of the resurrection, I have not yet been able to purchase one of any sort whatever. It has been set down as a well-known truth, and therefore has never been discussed. Heresies have not risen up respecting it; it would almost have been a mercy if there had been, for whenever a truth is contested by heretics, the orthodox fight strongly for it, and the pulpit resounds with it every day. I am persuaded, however, that there is much power in this doctrine, which is capable of moving the hearts of men and bringing them into subjection to the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

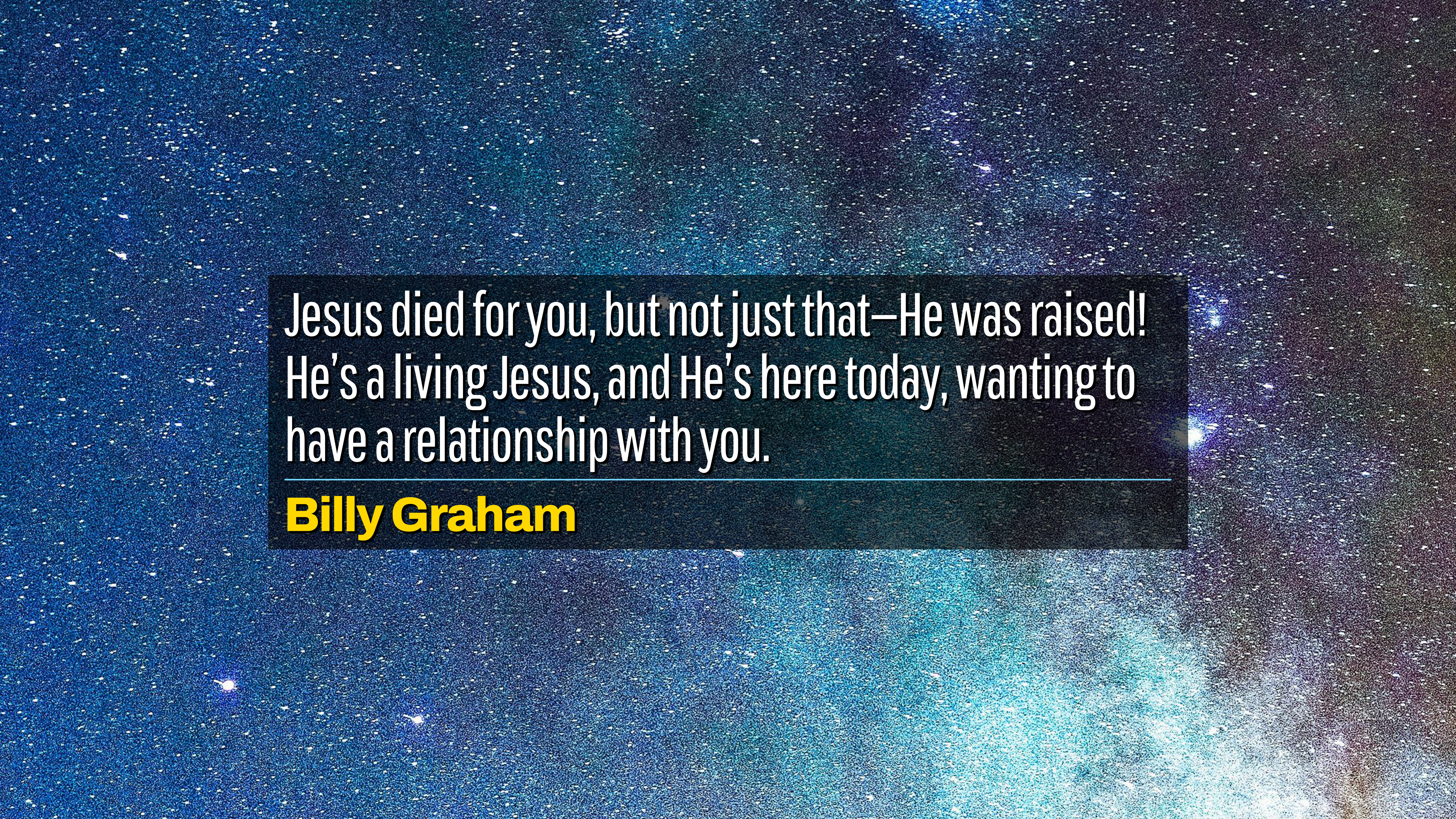
Charles Spurgeon

“You must also believe in the power of that message to save people. You may have heard the story of one of our first students, who came to me, and said, “I have been preaching now for some months, and I do not think I have had a single conversion.” I said to him, “And do you expect that the Lord is going to bless you and save souls every time you open your mouth?” “No, sir,” he replied. “Well, then,” I said, “that is why you do not get souls saved. If you had believed, the Lord would have given the blessing.”

Charles Spurgeon

I had caught him very nicely; but many others would have answered me in just the same way as he did. They tremblingly believe that it is possible, by some strange mysterious method, that once in a hundred sermons God might win a quarter of a soul. They have hardly enough faith to keep them standing upright in their boots; how can they expect God to bless them? I like to go to the pulpit feeling, "This is God's Word that I am going to deliver in His name; it cannot return to Him void; I have asked His blessing upon it, and He is bound to give it, and His purposes will be answered."

Charles Spurgeon



Jesus died for you, but not just that—He was raised!
He's a living Jesus, and He's here today, wanting to
have a relationship with you.

Billy Graham

Four possible reasons why the resurrection may not share the same prominence and emphasis in today's teachings as it did in the early Apostles' teachings:

1. The resurrection may have been somewhat overshadowed by the prominence or importance of the cross.

As a generalisation, Christ's resurrection has been relatively eclipsed. In Eastern Orthodoxy, the accent has been on His incarnation (that is: God become flesh). In Western Christianity (both Roman Catholic and Protestant), attention has been focused heavily and at times almost exclusively on Christ's death and its significance. The overriding concern, especially since the Reformation, has been to keep clear that the Cross is not simply an ennobling and challenging example but a real atonement. In short, the salvation accomplished by Christ and the atonement have been virtually synonymous.

Richard Gaffin

My point is not to challenge the validity or even the necessity of this development. But in this dominating preoccupation with the death of Christ, the significance of His resurrection has been largely overlooked. Not that the Resurrection has been deemed unimportant, but all too frequently it has been considered exclusively as a stimulus and support for Christian faith (which it undoubtedly is) and in terms of its apologetic value, as the crowning evidence for Christ's deity and the truth of Christianity in general.

Richard Gaffin

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- 2. The resurrection has missed out on the beneficial effects of controversy and heresy.**

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3. Our Neglect of the Resurrection is Part of the Enemies Strategy.

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2. The resurrection has missed out on the beneficial effects of controversy and heresy.
3. Our Neglect of the Resurrection is Part of the Enemies Strategy.
4. Others say: the Bible rarely appears to mention the resurrection therefore we needn't place much emphasis on it.

No tenet of Christianity is more central. The Resurrection is at once the foundation of Christian faith and the focus of Christian hope.

The Encyclopaedia of the Reformed Faith

We must take care that we preach not only Christ's death, but also His resurrection according to the Scriptures. Failure to do so is to assume the resurrection.

When we assume the gospel we are [only] one generation away from denying it.

Don Carson

Romans 5:10

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.

Colossians 3:1-2

1. If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
2. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”