

## The Good News About The Resurrection of Christ

Jesus is the “first-fruits” of the resurrected, meaning he is the first of many to come. On the day of his ascension, he told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit who would guide and protect them because he was going to prepare a place in heaven and he would come back for those that believe in him. He was then taken into heaven to claim his throne and we await his coming back, known as the Rapture.

Luk 24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

Luk 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

Luk 24:3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Luk 24:4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.

Luk 24:5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

Luk 24:6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,

Luk 24:7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

Luk 24:8 And they remembered his words,

Luk 24:9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

Luk 24:10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,

Luk 24:11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

Luk 24:12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

Dawn on Sunday morning; A bunch of women went to finalize the burial of Jesus, but he was already up and at-em. There were 2 guys standing there though, I think they are Moses and Elijah. These 2 showed up at the transfiguration [Jesus appeared in his heavenly glory, Luke 9:28-33], now at his resurrection, again at his ascension [Act 1:9-11], and will show up again in Rev 11:3-12].

This resurrection is a big deal because Jesus was the first to be resurrected and go on to eternal life. This is what we celebrate- not only on Easter, but every Sunday in Church, and also every day with the saying of grace at our meals; because Jesus said that if we believe in him, even if our bodies die, he is coming back to get us and we will be resurrected to live with him in heaven. This is called the Rapture.

The Apostle Paul wrote about this in many places. The go-to verses are in the Book of Thessalonians.

1Th 4:13 But we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve like other people who have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so through Jesus God will bring those who have died with him.

1Th 4:15 For we declare to you what the Lord has told us to say: We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who have died.

1Th 4:16 With a shout of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of God's trumpet, the Lord himself will come down from heaven, and the dead who belong to the Messiah will rise first.

1Th 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

1Th 4:18 So then, encourage one another with these words.

So when you hear someone talk about the "gospel" we know that they are meaning the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus, and waiting for his coming to take us home.

The gospel is spelled out by Paul in the Book of Corinthians; [Reading assignment 1Corinthian15:>]

1Co 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

1Co 15:4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

1Co 15:20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1Co 15:21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1Co 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming [the Rapture] those who belong to Christ.

1Co 15:24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

So; By this belief we have no fear of dying, because we are convinced that our God and Father will send HIS Son to bring us home to live forever with HIM in heaven.

How can we be sure?, you ask.

Ephesians 1:13:14 tells us;

Eph 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

When we are given this gift with our salvation there is power to help us along the way known as "manifestations" or things we will see. [1Corinthians 12:.] But, the main way we know is through "the fruits of the Spirit", meaning the results of living in the Spirit of God.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

If this is how somebody else would describe you...You are going to live eternal life with Jesus.