



World Christian Fellowship

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Women worship the Resurrected Jesus Christ! **Matthew 28:8-10**

Matthew 28:1-10, *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.*

⁵But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

⁸So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

The Women Worship the Risen Lord

⁹And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.

Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

The Greatest Event in History

No single event — nor all events combined — matches the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, the fulfilment of ancient prophecy, and the guarantee of every believer's eternal hope.

2 Corinthians 4:14, *knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.*

When **Neil Armstrong** walked on the moon in **1969**, the world stopped to watch. Nations celebrated. Yet even that monumental achievement pales in comparison — Armstrong's footprint will eventually erode, but the resurrection of Christ has forever changed the trajectory of every human soul.

The Hope of Resurrection.

The message of resurrection is not a New Testament novelty. From the earliest writings of Scripture, God's people looked forward to life beyond the grave.

The Old Testament Foundation:

1. The Psalms — God Will Ransom His People

Psalm 49:15, *But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me. Selah*

Psalm 73:24, *You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.*

David wrote these psalms in the midst of suffering, yet he anchored his hope beyond the grave.

When life feels like a dead end, the believer knows it is a thoroughfare into eternity.

2. The Prophets — God Will Raise His People.

Hosea 6:2, *"After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him."*

Isaiah 26:19, *"Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead."*

Daniel 12:2, *"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*

The prophet Ezekiel saw a valley full of dry bones (**Ezekiel 37**).

Ezekiel 37:3-14, *And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord God, You know."* ⁴*Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!'* ⁵*Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord."* ' " ⁷*So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' " ¹⁰So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. ¹⁴I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know*

that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it," says the Lord.' "

God asked him, 'Can these bones live?' What seemed utterly impossible — the resurrection of a nation — was declared certain by God.

This vision pre-echoes the physical resurrection of Christ and, through Him, of all who believe.

3. Job — The Oldest Testimony

Job 19:25–26, *For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; ²⁶And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,*

Job wrote this in the depths of suffering, having lost everything Yet his confidence in resurrection never wavered.

The worst life can throw at us cannot rob us of our resurrection hope.

Corrie ten Boom survived the Nazi concentration camps of **WWII** where her sister **Betsie** died. She often quoted Job's words, saying that no matter what they did to the body, she would one day see God. Her unshakeable hope in resurrection was not theory — it was her daily survival.

Resurrection has been the hope of God's people for all history. This hope predicated on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is His resurrection that guarantees ours.

It is His resurrection is the first fruits of all that slept.

Jesus is the guarantor of our resurrection.

No wonder that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is mentioned at least **104 times** in the New Testament.

The tragedy of denying the Resurrection.

The Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 15** presents one of Scripture's most powerful logical arguments: if Christ did not rise from the dead, the entire Christian faith collapses.

1 Corinthians 15:12–19, *Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁴And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. ¹⁵Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. ¹⁶For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in*

this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

Five Devastating Consequences (1 Corinthians 15:13–19)

1. *Gospel Preaching Becomes Worthless (v.14)*

Without the resurrection, Christ died as a mere victim not a Victor. There is no good news to proclaim. The message loses all power.

2. *Faith in Christ Becomes Useless (v.14, 17)*

Believing in a dead Christ profit nothing. Faith must have a living object. A dead Saviour cannot save.

3. *All the Apostles are Liars (v.15)*

Men who died for the message of resurrection.

Peter crucified upside down,

Paul beheaded,

Stephen stoned,

And would all be exposed as frauds.

Historian after historian has observed that the disciples' willingness to die for their testimony is among the strongest evidences of the resurrection.

People do not die for something they know to be a lie. They may die for a belief that turns out to be false but the disciples claimed to be eyewitnesses.

4. Sin's Power remains Unbroken (v.17)

If Christ was not raised, His death accomplished nothing. Sin still reigns. Every person remains under its condemnation with no possibility of forgiveness.

5. All who have died in Christ are Lost (v.18–19)

Every loved one who died in faith, every martyr, every faithful saint would be eternally damned.

Christians would be the most pitiable people on earth.

In **1637**, **Japanese** authorities ordered the execution of all Christians and buried **11,111 heads** separately from their bodies. Believing this would frustrate any resurrection. Their plan revealed both their desperation and their foolishness.

God who formed man from dust has no trouble reassembling what belongs to Him.

The Evidence for Resurrection.

Matthew presents the resurrection with stunning simplicity and artlessness the hallmark of truthful testimony.

The setting.

V 1, *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.*

Sunday morning, dawn the third day, exactly as Jesus had predicted on five separate occasions in Matthew's gospel.

The women, **Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, and Joanna** came to anoint His body. Their mission itself proves they expected no resurrection.

They didn't believe in a resurrection.

They weren't anticipating a resurrection.

They were coming out of devoted love and sympathy to Christ to anoint His body one more time before decay finally totally took over.

They were worried about moving the stone.

Mark 16:3, *And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"*

Not a detail fabricator would include.

They were unaware of the Roman guard demonstrating no conspiracy existed.

The Evidence Compiled.

1. The Empty Tomb.

V 6, He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

All parties Romans, Jewish leaders, and disciples agreed the tomb was empty. The only debate was how it became empty.

Christ had already gone out of the grave.

There was a great earthquake because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it. That's what created the earthquake.

Remember the angel did not open the grave to let Christ out. The angel opened the grave to let people in. Christ had already left.

2. The Orderly Grave Clothes.

John 20:6–7, Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

The burial linens lay undisturbed.

Not ripped off and scattered as would occur in a robbery, but lying in perfect order, the head cloth folded separately.

Christ had simply passed through them.

When John saw the undisturbed grave clothes, he 'saw and believed'

John 20:8, *Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.*

No argument, no further evidence required — just the silent testimony of cloth that had no body inside it.

True faith often needs only one compelling sign.

3. The Unconscious Roman Guard

V 4, *And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.*

Hardened Roman soldiers, trained warriors who feared execution for dereliction of duty were knocked unconscious by the angel's appearance.

A stolen body theory requires explaining how disciples overpowered them.

4. The Angelic Testimony

V 5–7, *But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”*

You are going to become eyewitnesses when you see Him in Galilee.

Matthew 26:32, *But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”*

Galilee of the Gentiles, Galilee of the nations, where the Lord first ministered, did His miracles and first redeemed souls and was first hated and rejected.

Galilee, a microcosm of the world.

Jesus would meet them and commission them to preach the gospel in Galilee was in a sense to say, “I want this to be a representation that you must go to the whole world.” It was a positive statement.

Matthew 4:14-17, *that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: ¹⁶The people who sat in darkness have*

seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death

Light has dawned.”¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Galilee represented the world and the message of resurrection was to go to the world, so the commissioning was to be in Galilee.

Matthew’s gospel ends with that great commission. All those people gathered in Galilee and sent out with the message of the risen Christ.

5. The Physical Appearances of Christ.

Jesus appeared to multiple witnesses over 40 days in varied circumstances:

Mary Magdalene.

Individually, near the tomb.

John 20:14–16, *Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).*

Simon Peter personally, for restoration.

Luke 24:34, *saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"*

1 Corinthians 15:5, *and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.*

Two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Walking and teaching.

Luke 24:13–35,

The eleven disciples in the upper room:

Passing through locked doors.

Luke 24:36, *Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."*

Thomas, eight days later.

Jesus invited to touch the wounds.

John 20:26–28, *And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*

Over 500 people at once most still alive when Paul wrote.

1 Corinthians 15:6, *After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.*

Sir Edward Clarke KC, a leading British barrister, wrote: 'As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidences for the events of the first Easter day. To me the evidence is conclusive... as a lawyer I accept it unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men to facts they were able to substantiate.'

Professor Thomas Arnold, author of the three-volume **History of Rome and Oxford chair of Modern History**, similarly concluded: 'I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence than the great sign which God hath given us, that Christ died and rose again from the dead.'

The emotions of the Resurrection.

A Human Encounter

Matthew presents the resurrection through the eyes of the women giving it a profoundly human quality that resonates with every believer's spiritual journey.

A. Sympathy.

V 1, *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.*

The women came with spices to anoint a corpse they believed would never rise. They came out of love — but love without resurrection hope.

Many believers live here: faithful in love and duty, but without full confidence in resurrection power.

Our service to Christ need not be driven only by duty — it can be energised by the living hope of resurrection.

B. Terror.

V 2-3, *And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.*

The soldiers fell as dead men. The women trembled. When God moves, creation shakes.

Isaiah saw the Lord in His holiness and cried out, 'Woe is me! For I am lost!'

Isaiah 6:5, *So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts."*

Peter fell at Jesus' feet and said, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man'

Luke 5:8, *When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"*

Healthy reverence for the holiness of God is not the enemy of faith — it is its foundation.

C. Joy

V 8, *"So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples."*

Terror gave way to tremendous joy.

The resurrection does not leave us cowering but it sends us running.

The Christian life is not grief management, it is joy proclamation.

William Wilberforce, the great abolitionist, wrote in his diary after his conversion: 'I can no longer bear any other life than one devoted to the risen Christ.'

His joy in the resurrection became the fuel for decades of exhausting work to end the slave trade. Resurrection joy is not passive — it mobilises.

D. Worship.

V 9,*"And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him."*

The risen Christ's first word was the ordinary marketplace greeting — 'Chairete' — 'Hello. Good morning.' In resurrection glory, He retained His human warmth and tenderness.

The ordinary salutation of the marketplace. That was the ordinary greeting that everybody gave as they passed on the roads.

That was what you said when you spoke to the people in your own house every day.

Here is Christ in resurrection glory, the Son of God in His kingly majesty having conquered death, and in a very simple and warm and human way He simply stops some women that He loves and with human tenderness and very natural human sympathy He says, "Good morning. Hi."

They worshiped because they now understood who He truly was!

Even though Jesus Christ is glorified, He has not lost His human sensitivity.

- ✓ He has not lost His human tenderness.
- ✓ He is heavenly but He is also earthly.
- ✓ He can commune with the holy angels and the Trinity.

- ✓ He can also commune with men who walk the dusty roads of life.

Philippians 2:10–11, *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Revelation of the risen Christ always leads to worship. When we truly encounter Him, we fall at His feet.

E. Witness with Hope.

V 10, *"Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.'"*

He called the disciples 'My brothers' — transformed by His death and resurrection from servants to family, from guilty to forgiven.

John 20:17, *Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ ”*

His death and resurrection, they have been brought fully into the family of God.

Hebrews 2:11-12, *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,¹² saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”*

Peter had denied Christ three times. Yet the angel specifically said, 'Go, tell the disciples and Peter'

Mark 16:7, *But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”*

And Christ appeared personally to Peter before the others (**1 Corinthians 15:5**).

The risen Christ seeks out the one who fell hardest. No failure is final with a risen Saviour.

Application:

What the resurrection proves?

Six Life-Changing Truths:

1. The Word of God Is True.

V 6, *"He has risen, as he said."*

Five times in Matthew alone, Jesus predicted His resurrection and it happened on schedule, in the manner He described. The Bible can be trusted completely.

2. Jesus Christ Is the Son of God.

Romans 1:4, *"declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead."*

The resurrection is God the Father's public declaration and endorsement of all that Jesus claimed to be.

3. Salvation is Complete.

Romans 4:25, *"He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."*

The empty tomb is the receipt confirming that sin's debt has been paid in full. God accepted the sacrifice.

A young man once approached **Charles Spurgeon** deeply troubled: '**How do I know God has accepted me?**'

Spurgeon replied, 'The question is not whether God has accepted you but the question is whether you have accepted what God has accepted?'

The finished work of Christ, proven by His resurrection.'

The empty tomb is our assurance.

4. The Church Is Established.

Matthew 16:18, *"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Death could not stop Christ from building His church.

Two thousand years of history — through persecution, plague, and opposition only confirm it.

5. Judgment is Coming.

Acts 17:31, *"He has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."*

The resurrection means the Judge is alive.

Every person will stand before Him. This is a solemn warning and a call to repentance.

6. Heaven is Waiting.

John 14:2-3, *"In my Father's house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself."*

The risen Christ is at this moment preparing eternal dwelling places for His own. The resurrection is the guarantee that heaven is not a dream, but it is a destination.

Conclusion.

Because He Lives

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not one doctrine among many.

It is the load-bearing wall of the entire Christian faith.

- Remove it, and everything collapses.
- Embrace it, and everything stands firm.

Romans 10:9, *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

On a battlefield during **World War I**, a chaplain was administering last rites to a dying soldier. The young man whispered, 'Padre, is there any hope?' The chaplain leaned close and said softly, 'There is a Man who died on a Friday and was alive again on a Sunday. His name is Jesus, and if you trust Him, your Sunday is coming too.' The soldier closed his eyes in peace. That is the message of Easter. That is the message of every Sunday. Because He lives — we shall live also.

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone."