



The Reason for the Resurrection

Romans 4:25 (NKJV) “who [Jesus] was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Words of Ministry

The Bible tells us that Christ was delivered up for our sins and raised from the dead for our justification. Many believers may know why Jesus died for their sins, but do not see the significance of His being raised from the dead and how that relates to their justification.

God has done much more for us than forgive our offenses. He not only cleared our history of sins but He also gave us a standing with Him that is completely righteous and holy. We all believe that Jesus’ death on the cross was powerful enough to free us from sin, but do we believe that His resurrection was powerful enough to place us in a permanently perfect relationship with a holy God? We must be a Good Friday people and an Easter people! Jesus went up on the cross to care for your sins but He also went up to the Throne of God to care for your perfect standing in heaven!

When Christ was “*delivered up*” for sins it was to clear away all our offenses in the sight of God. But when He “*was raised*” from the dead it was to place us in a new standing before the universe. His death for our sins was not the *goal*, but the *means* to what God was really after: to raise us up into a relationship with Him where there would never be a sense of condemnation again.

Let me give you an illustration to help you understand the significance of this. Suppose that you are living in a foreign country where you happen to break a major law and are sentenced for the crime. You appeal to the king for mercy. He says, “The law is the law. I cannot bend the rules for you. What will others

say about my integrity? However, if you can find a substitute to take your punishment — one year in jail — I will allow it.”

By God’s grace, you find a willing substitute. He goes to prison on your behalf and you don’t see him for some time. Days, weeks and months pass by. The whole time you are wrestling with your guilt and fear of your punishment. Now, how or when will you know that your crime has been fully paid for? When will you be able to rest easy regarding your crime? It is when you see your substitute walking free again! When you see him out of prison, walking free, then you will know that the sentence has been fully served and you are justified. You will then know that no one can bring a charge against you for your old crime. You cannot be punished a second time for the same offense. You will no longer be afraid of the king or his guards coming after you because you know that the one who was punished in your place is now walking free.

Beloved, this is exactly how it is for you because of the cross and the resurrection. Jesus, your substitute, paid the debt on your crimes – a debt you could not pay. On the cross, He bore the sins, the crimes, of your entire life. God put it all on Jesus and then He punished Jesus for every single one of those sins until He the claims of justice were fully satisfied. And because God was so completely satisfied and pleased with what Jesus had done, He raised Him from the dead as evidence that the penalty of sin was fully paid.

The resurrection of Christ was proof for you and I that everything is paid in full and that we now have a new standing with God, not as sinners, but as saints! We are justified, legally declared righteous by the highest court in the universe. Our situation is cleared up. There is no longer any condemnation. There is no reason for us to walk around in fear or timidity about our soul’s status with the Father. We have received a justification for our life (Rom 5:18).

Beloved, Jesus’ tomb is empty! And so is your “sin record” in heaven! Jesus has been raised up! And so is your status before the throne! Christ’s resurrection and empty tomb will forever be our assurance that we have been fully justified. You no longer have to be afraid of God judging you for your sins. God’s justice is no longer something to fear, because His justice is now declared to be on your side!