**Foundations Lesson #14**

**The Resurrection of the Dead**

As Paul was making his defense before King Agrippa, he challenged his hearers by saying, “Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?” (Acts 26:8). Although some people mistakenly fail to believe in God's power to raise the dead, the resurrection of the dead is a vitally important truth which is clearly declared in Scripture.

**I. the central truth of Christianity: Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!**

- the story as told by the writers of the gospels

- Matthew 28:1-10 / Mark 16:1-14 / Luke 24:1-7, 36-52 / John 20:1-9

- the resurrection witnessed by the early disciples

- Acts 1:21-22, 2:32, 3:15, 10:40-41 / I Corinthians 15:3-8

- the resurrection preached by the early church

- Acts 2:24, 2:31-32, 3:15, 4:2, 4:10, 4:33, 5:30, 10:40-41, 13:29-37, 17:2-3, 18, etc.

- the importance of the resurrection: our faith would be futile without it

- I Corinthians 15:12-23

- no man-made religion having a founder who rose from the dead

- Buddha, Confucius, Muhammad, Zoroaster, etc.

- opponents of Christianity trying to discredit the resurrection with various “theories”

**II. Jesus foretelling his rising from the dead at least seven times**

- #1 – John 2:19-22

- #2 – Matthew 16:21 / Mark 8:31 / Luke 9:22

- #3 – Matthew 17:9 / Mark 9:9

- #4 – Matthew 17:23 / Mark 9:31

- #5 – John 10:17-18

- #6 – Matthew 20:19 / Mark 10:34 / Luke 18:32-33

- #7 – Matthew 26:31-32 / Mark 14:27-28

- The chief priests and Pharisees were aware of it. – Matthew 27:62-64

- Angels acknowledged it. – Matthew 28:5-6 / Luke 24:4-8

**III. what was accomplished by Jesus' resurrection from the dead**

- a demonstration that God is ***life*** and that he is the author of ***life***

- Acts 3:15 / Acts 2:24 / Romans 4:17 / John 5:21 / John 11:25-26

- the provision of our justification and our salvation – Romans 4:25 / Romans 10:9

- the guarantee that Jesus' followers will also rise from the dead

- I Corinthians 15:12-20 / Romans 8:11 / I Corinthians 6:14 / II Corinthians 4:14

- the radically transformed lives of Jesus' followers

- believers having confidence, having no fear of dying

- Romans 6:5 / Hebrews 2:14-15 / Revelation 1:17b-18 / Philippians 1:21-24

- a validation of Jesus' life and ministry – Acts 17:31 / Romans 1:4

**IV. two varieties of the resurrection of the dead**

A. being resurrected from physical death back to physical life

- the disciples who were sent out being commanded to do this – Matthew 10:8

- the son of the widow of Zarephath – I Kings 17:17-24

- the son of the Shunamite couple – II Kings 4:18-37

- the man thrown into Elisha's tomb – II Kings 13:21

- the widow's son at Nain – Luke 7:11-17

- Jairus' daughter – Matthew 9:18-26 / Mark 5:21-43 / Luke 8:40-56

- Lazarus – John 11:1-44

- many holy people – Matthew 27:50-53

- Tabitha, also called Dorcas – Acts 9:36-41

- Eutychus – Acts 20:7-12

- the two witnesses – Revelation 11:7-12

B. being resurrected from physical death to everlasting spiritual existence

- death, in Scripture, being referred to as...

- sleep – John 11:11-13 / Acts 7:59 - 8:1

- departure – II Peter 1:5 / II Timothy 4:6

- putting aside the body – II Peter 1:13-14

- being gathered to his people (fathers) – Genesis 25:8 / Judges 2:10

- both the righteous and the wicked resurrected – Acts 24:15 / John 5:28-29

- taking place “at the last day” – John 6:39-40

- receiving a spiritual body – I Corinthians 15:35-57

**V. errors, speculations, and false understandings about the resurrection of the dead**

- Herod – Mark 6:14-16

- the Sadducees – Matthew 22:23-32 / Mark 12:18-27 / Luke 20:27-38

- the guards at the tomb – Matthew 28:11-15

- philosophers in Athens – Acts 17:18, 31-32

- some believers in Corinth – I Corinthians 15:12

- Hymenaeus and Philetus – II Timothy 2:17-18

- avoiding falling into such errors – Matthew 22:29 / Mark 12:24

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