

BECAUSE HE LIVES
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Matthew 5:13-16

1. In Matthew 28:1-10 we have some suggestive verses related to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - a. In verse one we read, “Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week.” **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST MARKED THE DAWNING OF A NEW ERA.**
 - b. In verse 2 we find out that the Resurrection was accompanied by a severe earthquake. **THE EARTHQUAKE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM WAS EVEN GREATER IN THAT THE DEVIL AND HIS FORCES HAD BEEN DEFEATED.**
 - c. We also see that an angel of the Lord had descended and rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb. **IN JESUS CHRIST NO GRAVE IS SEALED, AND DEATH IS NOW A DOORWAY FROM THIS LIFE INTO THE NEXT.**
 - d. Those who first witnessed the reality of the Resurrection obediently left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy. **REVERENTIAL FEAR AND GREAT JOY SHOULD BE EVIDENT IN THE LIVES OF ALL WHO ENCOUNTER THE REALITY OF THE LIVING LORD JESUS.**
2. The life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and glorification of Jesus Christ constitute the single most important series of events in the history of the world.
3. Being born again from above through repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ transforms a person’s life from one of futility to one of fruitfulness.
4. Sadly the majority of people in our world remain blind to the great spiritual truths that can reconcile them to an offended God and transform them and all aspects of their lives.
5. We must understand our ability to live a life that matters is dependent on our relationship with Jesus Christ; apart from Him we can do nothing, but we can do all things through Him who strengthens us.
6. Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave.
7. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures.
8. We also believe that after forty days He ascended back to the Father where He was invested with all power and authority and given a name that was above every name.
9. Having appeased the wrath of God, Jesus was given the power to grant repentance and forgiveness of sins to all who would, in response to His activity in their lives, repent, bow their knee, and confess Him as Savior and Lord.
10. Because Jesus lives you and I can live a life that has eternal implications and importance.

I. Because Jesus lives you and I can live a life that brings glory to God.

Matthew 5:13-16

- A. Jesus pointed out that His followers were the salt of the earth and the light of the world.
- B. Salt that has lost its properties and light that is hidden has no value.
- C. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, has been given to every true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, and where the Spirit of God is He makes His presence known.

D. Jesus Christ stands ready to make every command of Scripture a living reality in our lives if we will but follow Him.

E. Is verse 16 a living reality in your life?

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify (give glory to) your Father who is in heaven.”

NOTE: The lives of many professing Christians actually deny, rather than confirm, the reality of the Resurrection.

II. Because Jesus lives you and I can live a life that is distinctively different.

Philippians 2:12-16

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

A. Our lives should be consistently different regardless of who is, or who is not, watching. 12

B. We should take our salvation and the fact that God is at work in us seriously.

C. Our demeanor and behavior should set us apart and be so different from those around us that we appear as lights in the world (shine as luminaries or stars).

D. Our lives are to be so attractive that they attract attention and give us the opportunity to share the life-giving word.

III. Because Jesus lives you and I can live a life that causes others to ask questions.

1 Peter 3:13-17

Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

A. Jesus pointed out that those who love darkness hate the light. John 3:19-21

"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

B. We are not to be discouraged by the fact that those around us may resent, resist and revile us.

C. Rather, we are to set apart Christ as Lord in our hearts, and stand ready to explain ourselves and our hope to anyone who asks us for an explanation.

D. We are to do so with gentleness and reverence regardless of how we are being treated. 2 Tim 2:22-26

Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

APPLICATION

1. In Galatians 1:15-16, Paul stated that God, through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in him.
2. What was true of Paul is true of all who embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
3. In 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 Paul shared the following prayer with his readers.

“To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
4. This passage suggests several questions we might ask ourselves.
 - a. What is God’s evaluation of the degree to which we are fulfilling our calling?
 - b. Do we desire to live a life that is characterized by goodness and what Paul calls the work of faith with power?
 - c. If the name of our Lord Jesus Christ being glorified in us?
 - d. Are we being glorified in Him (are we manifesting His presence)?
 - e. Does our life testify to the reality of the Resurrection?