

Six ways the bodily resurrection of Jesus changes our lives now

Good morning. This week we will think together about six ways that the bodily resurrection of Jesus 2000 years ago has massive implications for our lives here and now.

1. The bodily resurrection of Jesus proves that forgiveness from God is available now

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. (1 Cor 15:14-17)

In 1 Cor 15 v17 Paul states it negatively – if Christ has not been raised your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. But the fact that Christ has been raised means, positively, that our faith in Christ is not futile and we can be sure of forgiveness of our sins.

Which means that this morning, if you turn to Jesus Christ in prayer, and ask for his forgiveness, you can be absolutely sure that he will forgive you. He is alive. He hears your cry for help. His resurrection proves that his sin-bearing death in our place dealt with all the punishment for sin that we deserve.

You may feel dry and distant from God right now. Don't be surprised, for we have all been through trauma because of the impact of coronavirus on our lives. And such trauma affects us body and soul.

But don't let those feelings trick you into thinking that somehow God has abandoned you. He hasn't. Come back to Him in prayer. Ask Him to give you that assurance of peace with Him that Christ's death and resurrection has secured.

Fix your eyes upon Jesus, who 'after he provided purification for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven' (Heb 1:3). After his resurrection he ascended into heaven and then Jesus sat down. Job done. Your sin, my sin, paid for. Forgiveness from God available today. The resurrection secures it!