

MONTLY DEVOTION



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“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith.

It proves that He is the Son of God. It proves that His message is true. Jesus “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (*Romans 4:25*).

I believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus because I recognize that I am a sinner. Because of His death on the cross and His third day bodily resurrection from the dead, righteousness and salvation have been obtained, won, paid for. How is this blessing given to each of us? By faith. Faith grabs hold of the blessings of Christ — indeed, of Christ Himself. Or perhaps it is better to say, in faith Christ grabs hold of us.

The significance of Christ’s resurrection runs through the New Testament. Baptism

connects us to Christ’s death and resurrection! (*Romans 6:3-5*). Peter says, “Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (*1 Peter 3:21*). Baptism is that “appeal,” which is a result of the resurrection! The resurrected Christ delivers the keys to His disciples: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven” (*John 20:23*). Jesus said time and again of those whom the Father gives Him, “I will raise him up on the last day!” (*John 6:39, 44*). And in a grand reference to the Lord’s Supper, Jesus says, “Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day” (*John 6:54*).

Finally, St. Paul wrote: “But

in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (*1 Cor. 15:20*). Christ is the first one raised, and we too shall be raised from the dead at the Last Day. And “sleep” is not some mere euphemism for the horror of death. No, death for us Christians, as Luther described it, shall be like falling asleep and then waking refreshed from a short nap. “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ” (*1 Cor. 15:22-23*).

Worship this Christ who has died and been raised for you. Extend an invitation to those who need to hear that same saving message with you especially during this time of year. Yes, Christ is risen and so shall we!

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