**The Power of a Resurrected Life**

In Matt12, Jesus has already dismissed charges that His disciples had done *“what is not lawful on the Sabbath”* (vv.1-8; *i.e.* the Pharisees had so accused them because they had plucked and eaten heads of grain), and restored the withered hand of man in a Jewish synagogue (vv.9-14; for which they *“counseled together how they might destroy Him”*); and also removed the demon from a blind and mute possessed man so that he both saw and spoke (vv.22-23; for which He was accused of using the power of Beelzebul). In each of these events, He had demonstrated by miraculous power and divine reasoning that He was the Son of God! And yet, despite these things, He was asked in v.38 to perform *“a sign”* to manifest His divinity. Understandably, He refused. Instead, He gave the reply that ***“no sign shall be given to it*** ( the *“adulteress generation”* of *sign-seekers* from the first part of the verse) ***but that of the prophet Jonah,”*** v.39. He went on in the next verse to explain, *“for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea-monster; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”*

While rebuffing their self-serving request for a sign from Him- having just provided three manifestations of His divine power, Jesus nonetheless gave them what they needed to know. How so?

Jesus’ words are an unmistakable reference to His death, burial, and resurrection from the grave on the third day! Paul, in writing to the Romans of this event, said that Jesus was ***“declared with power to be the Son of God by resurrection”* Rom.1:4!** The portion of that *“adulteress generation”* to whom Jesus spoke would be given only one more great and unmistakable “proof” of His divinity- His resurrection from the grave. It was **the** *sign of all signs!* Thus, after the fact, His apostles stressed it over and over again in their initial preaching of the gospel, cf. Acts 2:22-24,32,36; 3:15,22,26; 4:1-2,10; 5:30; *et al*.

Christians all over the world are today commemorating this blessed “proof” of Jesus as the Christ. “Easter” is a horrible mistranslation of *pascha-* the Passover. It appears 29 times in the N.T. and only in Acts 12:4 is translated by the KJV as “Easter.” Our word “Easter” actually is derived from the Old English-Saxon word *Eastre,* the goddess of love, or *Venus of the North-* it was a pagan festival in April celebrating Spring that coincided with the Jewish feast of Passover. The N.T. simply provides no “special” once-a-year celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Nor is there any evidence- biblical or otherwise, that first century Christians celebrated the occasion in any way other than the weekly observance of the Lord’s Supper, or Communion, as ***is*** specified in the sacred text, Acts 20:7.

But I can’t help but wonder if all of the “sunrise” and “special” once-a-year emphasis on this blessed event has either caused, or at least contributed to, our missing of the real point of Christ’s resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus proved that He was the Christ, the Son of God, and the Savior of the world!

**But, is this the only *power* of Hisresurrection?** There is no doubt or dispute regarding what the resurrection demonstrated regarding Jesus, Rom.1:4. **What other *power* is it supposed to wield?**

**I. The *Power* of Jesus’ resurrection is also about “proving” who *we* are supposed be!**

**A. Jesus’ resurrection is supposed to *prefigure* ours, Rom.6:1-7.**

1. Our ***baptism*** *into Christ* is supposed to be *putting to death* and *burying* of our *“old self”* of sin, v.3-4a.
2. But as Jesus’ death would have been meaningless without His resurrection, cf. 1Cor.15:12-19, so too our baptism is meaningless unless it is accompanied by a *resurrection* to *new life* in freedom from sin, vv.4-7,11-13!

**B. Jesus’ resurrection is supposed to prefigure our *transformation* into His image*,* Rom.12:1-2.**

1. The word translated as *“transform”* is the Greek term for *metamorphosis-* literally: *meta* (hereafter) + *morphoo* (to *form* or *change*) = *hereafter changed!*
2. Jesus, once resurrected, was *thereafter changed* never to revert to His previous state, cf. John 20:11-17.
3. Our spiritual lives, once *resurrected with Christ* through baptism, should likewise be forever changed so that we cannot revert back to our former ways and self, Rom.6:12-14ff.
4. However, this *transforming power* of Jesus’ resurrection upon our lives is not accomplished without our continued effort. Note from Rom.12:2 that includes:
   1. *“renewing of your mind”-* We are supposed to start thinking *resurrected thoughts,* cf. Phil.4:8; in *resurrected ways,* Phil.2:1-18; and
   2. *“proving what the will of God is”-* We are supposed to start living *resurrected lives* which demonstrate the will of God to all who see and know us, cf. Eph.5:10,17 and 3:10-12.

**C. Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope beyond this life, 1Cor.15:12-19.**

1. If we have *put death* our *old man of sin* by baptism, and have been *resurrected* to a *new* and *transformed life* in which our *minds* and *manner of life* have become manifestations (or *witnesses*) of the will of God to others, then we have hope (assurance with legitimate expectation of attainment) beyond this physical life, 1Cor.15:20-22.
2. Given these things, why do we continue to *trust* and *hope* in **this** life, cf. Matt.6:19-21 and 2Cor.4:16-18?
3. If we truly have been *resurrected* to a *new life* in Christ by the power of His resurrection, why do we still feel *“at home”* in this life and walk by *sight* rather than by *faith,* cf. 2Cor.5:1-10?

**II. Conclusion**

**A. Jesus’ resurrection *proved* He was the Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world!**

**B. But the *power* of His resurrection also *proves* who we are supposed to be: resurrected from burial to be *new* and *transformed* creatures in Him who *manifest* to the world *hope* beyond this life!**

**C. Now, has your life been truly *resurrected* in Christ, or are you just paying “lip service” to Christ’s resurrection?**