

ON THE THIRD DAY

Message Notes

Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lots of people were crucified in Jesus' day. What was unusual though was for a crucified man to come back to life three days later!

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-22

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ died and three days later He was bodily resurrected from the dead just as he claimed He would do (Matt 12:38-42; 28:5-6; John 2:13-22)

Q. So what did the resurrection of Jesus achieve?

1. Acceptance

Romans 4:25, *"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."*

Justification has to do with acceptance (fully pardoned)

God accepting Christ's sacrifice

The fact that God raised Jesus from the dead was evidence that the Father was satisfied with the sacrifice Christ had made for our sins.

God accepting us

We are justified – accepted – by God

Ephesians 1:6, *"to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."*

2. Intercession

Romans 8:34, *"Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."*

Hebrews 7:22-25, *"Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives*

forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

The Greek word translated "intercede" literally means, "to hit the mark." It's an archery term and is the opposite of "falling short" (*everyone has sinned and fallen short*). Because of His resurrection Jesus lives forever and causes us to be "spot on" to "hit the mark" or to score a bullseye with God!

3. Power

In the Bible there are three gauges of power:

The power by which God created the universe

Jeremiah 32:17, "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."

The power by which God brought Israel out of Egypt

Ex 32:11, "...your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand..."

The power by which God raised Jesus from the dead

Ephesians 1:19-21, "...and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms..." (Philippians 3:10)

If we desire to know what God is able to do in and through us we need look no further than the resurrection of Jesus...

4. Immortality

1 Thessalonians 4:14, *"We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."*

2 Corinthians 4:14-15, *"...because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence."*

John 14:19, Jesus said, *"Because I live, you also will live."*

Benjamin Franklin: (great inventor and Statesman)

Asked that a picture of Christ on the cross be hung before him so he could look on it in his dying moments in 1790. The epitaph on his tomb reveals his confidence: *"The body of Benjamin Franklin, Printer, like the cover of an old book its contents torn out, lies here. Yet the work itself shall not be lost, for it will, as he believed, appear once more in a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by the Author."*

Michelangelo: (great artist and sculptor – wrote in his will)

"I commit my soul to God, my body to the earth, my possessions to my nearest relatives. I die in the faith of Jesus Christ and in the firm hope of a better life."

William Shakespeare: (in his last will and testament 1 month before death)

"I commend my soul into the hands of God, my Creator, hoping and assuredly believing only through the merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour, to be made partaker of life everlasting."

Sir Michael Faraday: (greatest experimental scientist of all time)

As he lay dying journalists questioned him regarding his speculations of life after death. *"Speculations, I know nothing of speculations. I am resting on certainties. I know that my Redeemer lives and because he lives I shall live also."*

Thomas Edison: (scientist and inventor of microphone, phonograph, light bulb and motion picture camera)

Whispered with his dying breath to his physician: *"It is very beautiful over there."*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: (Courageous German theologian hanged in Nazi Germany during the Second World War)

On his way to the gallows: *"This is the beginning of a new life, eternal life."*

D.L. Moody: (Evangelist – died 1899)

"Earth recedes and heaven opens before me. It is beautiful. It's like a trance. There's no valley here, and God is calling me and I must go. This is my triumph, this is my coronation day, it is glorious. I've been looking forward to it for years. No pain, no valley. If this is death it is not bad at all, it's sweet."

And we can all have this hope because "On the third day He rose again from the dead." Amen!