

WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH
GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.
HE WAS WITH GOD AT THE
BEGINNING THROUGH HIM ALL
THINGS WERE MADE. WHO
HIM NOTHING WAS THAT
HAS BEEN MADE. HIS WAS
LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE
LIGHT OF MEN. THE LIGHT
IN THE DARKNESS, BUT THE
DARKNESS HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD IT.

the gospel of

JOHN

John 16:23-33

Introduction

This is one of the great passages on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and it is one of the most glorious passages in all of Scripture. It is one of those passages that lays out more than man could ever imagine. Jesus revealed and proclaimed the resurrection and its effects upon the world.

John 16:23-33

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; ²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. ²⁸ I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." ²⁹ His disciples said to Him, "See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! ³⁰ Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. ³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

The Resurrection Perplexes

John 16:16-19

“A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.” ¹⁷ Then some of His disciples said among themselves, “What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?” ¹⁸ They said therefore, “What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying.” ¹⁹ Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, “Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'?”

The resurrection of Jesus Christ perplexes people.
Jesus predicted His death and resurrection.

The Resurrection Brings Joy

John 16:20-22

“Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹ A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”

The resurrection brings irrepressible joy.

The Resurrection Brings Access to God

John 16:23-24

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

The resurrection gives open access into God's presence. Note two facts.

1. The glorious promise: an open door into God's presence. Jesus said "in that day," after His resurrection, there will be no need to ask Him anything. (This does not mean, of course, that we cannot ask Him, only that we do not have to ask Him.) The believer can walk right into the Father's presence. There is an open door into His presence. Whatever the believer asks the Father in Jesus' name, He will give it to the believer. This is the most glorious of promises, that we can approach God as our Father just as a child approaches his earthly father.

The Resurrection Brings Access to God

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2. The institution of prayer: Our approach to the Father must be in Jesus' name. Before Jesus, men had always asked God for things through sacrifice, but no more. The resurrection instituted a new and living way into God's presence. Men must now approach God through Jesus Christ...

- believing that the righteousness of Jesus covers them.
- asking God to accept their faith in Jesus as righteousness.
- thanking God for Jesus, His great love and sacrifice for them.

Note two tremendous promises to the man who asks in Jesus' name.

⇒ He will receive what he asks.

⇒ His joy is full and complete.

The Resurrection Reveals the Father

John 16:25-27

"These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; ²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God."

The resurrection reveals all about the Father. Note three points.

1. Jesus said that the resurrection would tell (show or declare) the Father plainly. It shows and declares God's nature...
 - of *compassion*: of caring for the welfare of those gripped by sin and death.
 - of *salvation*: of delivering men from the fear and bondage of sin and death.
 - of *power*: of omnipotence, of being able to plan and carry out the plan of salvation by overruling all and by raising the dead.
 - of *life*: possessing life itself and being able to infuse life into the dead.
 - of *justice*: not allowing One who was sinless and perfect to be held by death.
 - of *Omniscience*: knowing all, knowing the terrible injustice done to the innocent Son of God and knowing how to solve and work the situation for the salvation of His children.

The Resurrection Reveals the Father

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2. It shows the approach to God. Prayer is in the name of Jesus.

3. It shows that the Father Himself loves the believer. Jesus said that He would not have to beg the Father to receive and hear the believer. He does not have to intercede or take the believer to God. The believer does not need an Intercessor to be received by the Father. The Father Himself loves the believer. However, there is a crucial point to note. The Father *loves* the believer for a reason: the believer...

- loves Jesus.
- believes that Jesus "came out from God".

The Resurrection Reveals the Father

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It is because of Jesus that the Father receives and hears the believer. Note how this picture of God as Father differs radically from the normal picture...

- that God is angry and has to be begged by Jesus to receive and hear us.
 - that God is far off someplace out in space—almost too far to be reached.
- that maybe God is and maybe He isn't, but one needs to go ahead and pray just in case.

The Resurrection Validates that Jesus is Messiah.

John 16:28

"I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."

The resurrection validates and proves Jesus' claim to be the Messiah. In one brief statement Jesus gave the whole plan of salvation.

1. "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world".
2. "I leave the world, and go to the Father".

Note Jesus' phenomenal claim. He came from "the Father" and is returning to "the Father."

The Resurrection Exposes Weak Faith

John 16:29-30

“His disciples said to Him, "See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! ³⁰ Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.”

The resurrection exposes weak faith. Something Jesus said struck the disciples' hearts. Just what it was is not really known. It may have been His promise to show them the Father (explain all that He was saying) or the fact that the Father loves them. Whatever it was, it caused the disciples to make a great declaration of faith:

⇒ "You know all things."

⇒ "You came forth from God."

Note that this confession is the *Incarnation*, God Himself in the person of His Son coming to earth.

The Resurrection Exposes Weak Faith

John 16:31-32

“Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³² Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.”

Jesus questioned their belief, and predicted their desertion. Note several clear facts about Jesus, facts that are a great encouragement to the believer.

1. Jesus was never alone, even when men did not stand with Him. The Father was with Him through every situation no matter how terrible. Even when He did not have the support of men, He had God and His support.
2. Jesus was forgiving. He forgave every one of the men, even for deserting Him. He did not hold their sin and failure against them. (How His arms reach out for every deserter, to forgive and to receive back!)
3. Jesus knew all. Even when He chose these men, He knew they would fail and desert Him, yet He went ahead and chose them. He knew they were trustworthy and would eventually prove faithful.

The Resurrection Makes True Peace Available

John 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

The resurrection makes available true peace, triumphant peace. The world can give only trials and tribulation. No matter who the person is, the trials and tribulations come. Such is the way of the world, and no man can avoid it.

Therefore, whatever peace comes to this world is transient, passing quickly away. The peace of Jesus Christ is a lasting peace that is found in Him. It is a peace that overcomes the trials and tribulations of the world, no matter what they are, even the terrible trials of sin and death. But note, the overcoming peace...

- is only in Jesus.
- is only in His Word, in the things which He spoke.

The peace of God comes only through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, only through His conquest and victory over sin and death.

So What ...

You need to ask yourself what the Resurrection of Jesus means to you?

Is it just a Sunday School Story?

Or

Is it the hope and foundation of the forgiveness of our sin and our eternal hope of glory?

If you do not know Jesus as your personal savior, please be sure to talk to someone today!