



Christianity is Meaningless Without the Resurrection!

Christianity has become what it was never intended to be...a religion! Religion is man's attempt at approaching God on their own terms and ideologies. Christianity is God establishing a living relationship with a loving God through the sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son...the Lord Jesus Christ and his great sacrifice on the cross.

It was said of Mahatma Ghandi, who was a great leader in India and lead by passive resistance when it came to armies trying to take over the great nation of India. He was followed by the people of one of the most populous nations of the world. His influence was substantial!

One day Ghandi, who was a Hindu, investigated Christianity by visiting a mainline denominational Christian Church. Unfortunately this church would not allow him to experience Christ's love based on the color of his skin. He was literally turned away by the representatives of this congregation. Ghandi is quoted as saying, "*I would have been a Christian if I had not met one!*"

Imagine that! Ghandi could have turned an entire nation of millions of people to Christ if only he could have heard the unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ without man's polluting it with his racist prejudices! While many in India today have received Christ there are still millions lost in Hinduism, Islam and a multitude of other religions and gods. India continues to be one of the poorest countries economically when it comes to its citizenry.

What sets Christianity a part from other religions today is what we are about to celebrate in this season of Christ's Passion and Resurrection. No other religion can claim what the Christian faith can. We have a Savior that

has redeemed us from our sins and given us the gift of eternal life. His resurrection from the dead cannot be claimed by any other religious figure or leader.

The Resurrection of the Dead

12 But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead?

13 For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either.

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.

15 And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead.

16 And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.

18 In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost!

19 And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. (New Living Translation)

When Christ walked the earth there were religious Jews that did not believe in any type of resurrection. They were called **Saducee's**. Some have said because they did not believe in resurrection that is why they were **Sad U See!** I personally believe that to be true for every human who has or whoever will live on this planet. There is an eternity for everyone. There is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. It really doesn't matter where people fall on the issue. The fact remains that they are going to ultimately experience eternity for themselves in the beauties of heaven or the trauma of hell and the lake of fire!

This is what the Easter season reminds us of that Christ became our substitute and redeemed us from the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of His Love!

20 But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

21 So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man.

22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. (New Living Translation)

This is exactly what God desires for you...a new life that is to be lived out every day of your life! Many have already begun that journey and others have yet to start. If that describes you then visit our web page at www.mjbministries.org/connect-with-Jesus/ to get started today!

If you have already begun this journey then you have experienced the possibilities of this new life in Christ. Some who have made this step are struggling and are living in a contradiction to God's plan. Let me encourage you to not be discouraged. It is vital that you become a regular part of a local church where you are being taught the principles of God's Kingdom and where the Holy Spirit is free to move as He wills.

Remember that everything God does He does according to a pattern based on a principle of His Kingdom! As you learn Biblical Principles and apply them to your life the contradictions will turn around and cause you to rise up higher and higher.

"Whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4

- Rev. Michael J. Burns