**The Significance of Christ’s Resurrection**

**Introduction**

1. Our understanding of Christ’s death is that He that He conquered it (cf. Acts 2:22-24).
2. This of course is in hindsight. These things have passed, and we have the full gospel at our fingertips.
3. However, what about those who witnessed His death firsthand?
   1. Peter – Matthew 16:21-23 (He did not understand the need for Jesus’ death); John 18:3-11 (Jesus stopped Peter from fighting) – What must Peter have been thinking/feeling after his Lord was crucified?
   2. Sorrowful Women – Luke 23:26-27 (daughters of Jerusalem); John 19:25-27 (Jesus’ mother stood nearby); John 20:11-13 (even after seeing the tomb empty Mary had sorrow)
   3. Thomas’ doubt – John 20:24-25 (Thomas was so overwhelmed with sorrow that he would not believe Jesus was alive even when he was told so.)
4. The days in between Christ’s death, and His resurrection were days of sorrow, and grief.
5. The significance of His resurrection is seen by simply viewing the expressions of those when He was not yet raised. What a terrible experience! Yet, there is hope in His resurrection.
6. What is the significance of Christ’s resurrection? 🡪
7. Proof that Jesus is the Son of God.

* Romans 1:3-4
  + His resurrection is final proof that He is in fact the Son of God.
  + He spoke about His resurrection in His ministry (cf. Mark 8:31). It became true.

1. Demands submission to Him.

* Ephesians 1:19-23
  + Christ humbled Himself to the point of death. But God exalted Him by resurrection and placing Him in power.
  + We must submit to His authority.
  + 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 – We owe our lives to service to Christ. He died for us, overcame death for us, so that we could live for Him and have hope.

1. Validation of our faith.

* 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 – If Christ is not risen…
  + Apostles preaching is vain (v. 14).
    - Their message is meaningless because it isn’t true.
  + Our faith is vain (v. 14).
    - Our faith is meaningless because it is founded in a message that isn’t true.
  + Apostles are false witnesses (v. 15).
    - Said God raised Christ from the dead (cf. Acts 2:32).
    - Claimed to spend 40 days with Him after resurrection (cf. Acts 10:39-41).
  + We are still in our sins (v. 17).
    - Jesus would have been a liar. Ergo, His sin would disqualify Him as the perfect sacrifice for atonement of man.
  + Those who have died have perished without hope (v. 18).
    - Their faith was also in a false messiah.
    - They would have no atonement for sins.
    - They would have no hope of their own resurrection.
  + Christians are the most pitiable (v. 19).
    - We are obedient to a false god.
    - We are persecuted for following a hypocrite.
    - Our entire reason for hope is destroyed.

1. Verification of our justification.

* Romans 4:23-25; Colossians 2:12
  + If Christ is not risen then we cannot be raised in baptism. Justification is not possible.
  + Romans 8:33-34 – Christ’s sacrifice was an acceptable one for the justification of man for God raised Him from the dead!

1. Assures us of future judgment.

* Acts 17:30-31 – 2 Peter 3:3-6, 8-9 (There are those who say there will be no judgment. God’s testimony proves this false.)
  + God has appointed Jesus to judge. We can be assured that we will be judged because He has been raised.
  + This judgment will not be the same for everyone – Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46 (How will you be judged?)

**Conclusion**

1. Have you put on Christ in baptism?
2. If not why not?