



SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:19-22, 31

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost... 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

INTRODUCTION:

This time of year is an anticipated time due to the change of season. It is almost like a new life begins with the warm weather, picnics, walks in the park, barbecues, and no more winter coats. Just walking outside puts a smile on your face and joy in your heart.

It is also a time that we acknowledge and celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. For many of us, we have traditions that go along with it. It is not uncommon to purchase a new piece of clothing. Perhaps a new suit and tie for the men. For the women, it is always a good excuse to buy another pair of shoes or a new dress. There are also tasty food traditions, such as eating pieces of chocolate and jelly beans. What a great thing to have a piece of lamb or ham for lunch! These traditions can certainly bring comfort and joy, but there is something even greater than a new piece of clothing, a piece of chocolate, or a piece of lamb or ham. IT IS A PEACE OF THE RESURRECTION!

Peace is something the world desperately needs today. The world is crying out for international peace, national peace, civil peace, and domestic peace. One of the characteristics of the end times will be a cry for peace (I Thes. 5:3). The United Nations, the Peace Corps, pacifism, another Nobel Peace Prize recipient, more religion and tradition are not the answers. The only way the world will know peace is through the Prince of Peace. He is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ (Is. 9:6).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the New Testament faith (I Cor. 15). It brings with it an endless source of blessings to the believer, especially peace.



Power
Enjoyment
Assurance
Courage
Eternity



These questions are designed to stimulate spiritual conversation and open the lines of communication. Take some time to consider each verse and answer the questions to this timely subject.

DAY ONE

(v. 22) — The resurrection gives us peace because it provides POWER. The Apostle Paul knew there was power in the resurrection. He said, *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection”* (Phil. 3:10). It is amazing to think that the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus up from the dead is the same Spirit that lives in us! *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you”* (Rom. 8:11). The Holy Spirit gives us power to have victory over the world (I Jn. 5:4-5), the flesh (Ga. 5:16-26), and the devil (I Jn. 4:4; 5:18) (Eph. 2:1-6).

How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to have victory in life? What are some things that hinder the Holy Spirit from working in your life?

DAY TWO

(v. 20) — The resurrection gives peace because it provides ENJOYMENT. The disciples were overjoyed to see that Jesus was alive. It was a gladness that was permanently embedded in their hearts. They could now enjoy Him again, as the resurrection was a life-changing reality.

A believer in the resurrection enjoys knowing that Jesus is alive for evermore (Rev. 1:18). This allows us to enjoy His intercession (Heb. 7:25). As He lives for us up there, we can live for Him down here. As we plead His cause before men, He pleads our cause before the Father (I Jn. 2:1-2). We sing the song, *“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.”* We walk in the footsteps of a living Saviour who conquered death and the grave (I Cor. 15:55-57) (Acts 2:23-28). This ought to fill you with joy and the anticipation of Heaven. *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept”* (I Cor. 15:19-20).

There is nothing wrong with enjoying the things of the world (I Tim. 6:17), but how do these things compare to enjoying the spiritual things of God? Why is it significant that we pray in Jesus' name? (Jn. 14:13; 15:16; 16:24).

DAY THREE

(v. 20) — The resurrection gives peace because it provides ASSURANCE. When Jesus stood in their midst, He gave them assurance by showing His hands and His side. It was obvious that it was Him. This assured the disciples that He

was not an angel, spirit, or an imposter that looked like Him. It was really Jesus!

The resurrection assures us that Jesus is God. *“And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead”* (Rom. 1:4). *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory”* (I Tim. 3:16). There is no other faith where the founder declared to be God and resurrected himself (Jn. 10:18). Only Jesus Christ Himself has done this. After the resurrection, Jesus was seen of 500 people at once (I Cor. 15:6). His Spirit has also moved in the hearts of millions, giving assurance of who He is (I Jn. 4:3) (Gal. 4:6) (Rom. 8:15-16).

The resurrection also assures us that our sins have been paid for (Co. 2:14-15). If Jesus was not God, our sins could not be paid for in full (Heb. 9:26; 10:14) (Acts 20:28). What great peace it is to know that we are eternally secure in Jesus (Jn. 10:28-30) and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:13).

Are you 100% sure that you are on your way to Heaven? What does I John 5:13 mean to you? According to Titus 1:2, what is it that God cannot do?

DAY FOUR

(v. 19) — The resurrection gives peace because it provides COURAGE. The disciples were behind closed doors at this time due to fear. After Jesus came in their midst and gave them the peace of the resurrection (power — enjoyment — assurance), the fear went away and courage took over. They became so courageous that they turned the world upside down. They walked straight into the face of suffering and death for the cause of Christ. Where did this courage come from? Only one place... a risen Saviour (Rev. 1:17-18). They lived their lives in light of the resurrection of Christ and their own future resurrection to come. In light of the resurrection, Paul says, *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”* (I Cor. 15:55). In other words, it will be worth it all!

How is the power of God, enjoyment of God, and assurance of God connected with courage? What does faith have to do with courage? What fear do you have in your life that you need to overcome?

DAY FIVE

(v. 31) — The resurrection gives peace because it provides ETERNITY. The greatest provision from God is the gift of eternal life. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom. 6:23). *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Eph. 2:8-9). Heaven will be wonderful and glorious due to the presence of God Himself. There is no peace like knowing you have an eternity of bliss, love, and wonder awaiting you. In other words, the best is yet to come! We owe all this peace to the One who died for us. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* (Jn. 3:16).

How often do you think of Heaven? What are some things you can do now to better prepare for Heaven?

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

REVIEW:

The Resurrection provides:

- POWER — over the world, flesh and Devil
- ENJOYMENT — Jesus is our living intercessor
- ASSURANCE — Jesus is God and our sins are gone
- COURAGE — conquering our fears
- ETERNITY — the resurrection seals the deal

CONCLUSION:

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, be careful not to get caught up in all the side issues. Whether you call it “Easter” or “Resurrection Day” or the “Lord’s Day,” make sure you tap into the power God has given you! Regardless of the clothes you wear, new or old, rejoice in the Lord! If you have a tradition to eat something special, never forget that Jesus is God and your sins are gone! When fear creeps up on you, let the courage of the resurrected Saviour rule in your life! As each day goes by this week, remember you are one day closer to Heaven! When you go outside and the sun puts a smile on your face, remember the new creature you have become in Christ!

Here are a few ideas for you:

- Read all four Gospel accounts of the resurrection.
- Mail someone a gospel tract and encourage them in the Lord.
- Study First Corinthians chapter 15.
- Try to find the places in the Gospels where Jesus talked about His death, burial and resurrection. Notice how His listeners responded.
- Enjoy the peace of the resurrection.