The Resurrection Of The Dead

Intro: The resurrection of the dead is of utmost importance for all individuals of all times.

I. The Importance Of The Resurrection.

A. Many of the sermons in the early church were on the resurrection.
   1. Pentecost; Acts 2 (Many brethren think it was on baptism).
   2. Solomon’s Porch; Acts 3:15 “And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.”
   3. Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch; Acts 8:32-35 “The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.”
   4. Peter to Cornelius; Acts 10:40 “Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;”
   5. Paul at Antioch of Pisidia; Acts 13:33 “God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.”
   6. Paul at Athens; Acts 17:31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

B. How often do we preach the resurrection today?
   1. It is the cornerstone of our faith in Christ.
   2. Many are denying the resurrection.
   3. The resurrection of Christ is the hope of our resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:16-19 “For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”

II. Some False Ideas Concerning The Resurrection.

A. Only the righteous dead will be raised.
   1. This theory claims that the wicked dead simply will not be resurrected—that the grave is hell.
   2. John 5:28-29 “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,”And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”
   3. It might be convenient to think the wicked will not awake to perdition and punishment, but it is not scriptural; Mat. 25:46 “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

B. There will be two resurrections—one for the righteous and another a thousand years later for the wicked.
   1. John 5:28-29 “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,”And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”
   2. Rev. 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”
3. John 6:54 “Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”
   a. The righteous will be raised at the last day.
   b. How could there be another resurrection a thousand years later?

4. 1 Thes. 4:13-18 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”
   a. The dead in Christ shall be raised first, before the righteous living.
   b. We shall not precede them.
   c. There is no consideration of the wicked dead in this passage.

III. THE TRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION—ITS REALITY.
   A. Peter's sermon on Pentecost; Acts 2.
      1. Acts 2:24
         a. Whom God hath raised up.
         b. They were contemporaries, they knew there was an empty tomb.
      2. Acts 2:25-31
         a. David speaketh concerning him.
         b. David prophesied the resurrection, spoke not of himself but of Christ.
      3. Acts 2:32
         a. They had seen the Christ.
         b. The ones who crucified Christ about seven weeks later confessed their wrong and sought forgiveness.

   B. Paul's resurrection chapter; 1 Cor. 15
      1. 1 Cor. 15:5-8 “And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.”
         a. Appeals to those of that time, who had seen the resurrected Christ.
         b. That would have been the time to refute the resurrection, if it could have been done.
      2. 1 Cor. 15:14 “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.”
         a. Our preaching is vain without it.
         b. What does this do for the modernist and social Gospel of our day?
      3. Conclusion: 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

IV. THE RELEVANCY OF THE RESURRECTION TODAY.
   A. The resurrection is the great proof of the divinity of Christ, by which we accept Him as the Son of God.
      1. Acts 13:33 “God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.”
      2. Rom. 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”
B. The resurrection of Christ is the proof of our own resurrection.
   1. 1 Cor. 15:20 “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”
   2. 1 Pet. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”
C. Someone asks, “Why study the resurrection? What difference does it make? I have no doubts that I will be raised.”
   1. Is that right?
      a. How many people are living as though they believe there will be a resurrection?
      b. They say they believe it, then live as though there was no such thing.
   2. A preoccupation with material things of this world is the greatest menace to the church. Do we not need to have the resurrection established in our minds as did the Corinthians.
   3. There is something within each of us now that will never die. An eternal spirit that will live forever. Are you prepared for it?
      a. Parents are you rearing your children with the realization that they are eternal souls whose destinies cannot be measured in years.
         (1) Pro. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
         (2) Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
      b. Life here is short Jam. 4:14 “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”
         (1) The resurrection promises a never ending eternity.
         (2) Are you planning only for this short life, and neglecting your future in eternity.

Conclusion: 2 Pet. 3:9-13 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”