

The Resurrection

“In this body I shall rise.” Though the ancient Greeks and Romans could only voice resignation in the face of death (“I was not, I am not, I shall not be”), the sure and certain hope of victory over death was then, is now, and always shall be the distinguishing characteristic of the Christian.

James Nickel

To believe that divine healing of the body is in the atonement does not encapsulate the whole truth; i.e., it is one dimension of an infinitely more glorious truth. The resurrection of the body is what is guaranteed by the atonement. There is a mystery (Deut. 29:29) of healing that surrounds our experiences in the present age, but by Christ we know that death will ultimately open the portals of surpassing glory.

James Nickel

Since Biblical Christianity is founded upon the physical resurrection of the body, it is good to remind ourselves that living the Christian life is 100% supernatural.

James Nickel

We look back to the Cross but always through the filter of Christ’s resurrection victory.

James Nickel

Springtime resonates with new life ... extended daylight, refreshing rains, radiant sunshine, resplendent flowers in their manifold glories. Indeed, springtime is a harbinger of the Christ bought resurrection world where, to paraphrase C. S. Lewis, “Just wait until you see an unfallen rose, not a groaning rose, through unfallen eyes.”

James Nickel

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.”

“I am the resurrection” ... The curse of sin passes away in Me: the pain, the tears, the sorrow, the grief, the unanswered questions, yes, death itself.

“I am the life” ... I am the ultimate to which the temporal joys of life are only a foretaste. I am the tree of life, the living water, the Glory that lights all.

“I am the resurrection and the life” ... this is, indeed, the encapsulation of hope eternal.

James Nickel

What will the consummation, the new heaven and new earth, really be like? It has been said that the best way to prepare for life in the world to come is to cultivate our capacity for surprise.

James Nickel

In the context of Good Friday and Resurrection Day, mediate on Psalm 118, a Passover “Hallel” hymn. Jesus more than likely sang this with His disciples at the celebration of Passover (Matthew 26:30). After you read it, you will realize how pertinent this hymn is given the knowledge of what will soon transpire. “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:22-24).

James Nickel

The resurrection [of Christ] is a vast watershed in history or it is nothing. It cannot be tested for truth; it is the test of lesser truths. No light can be thrown on it; its own light blinds the investigator. It does not compel belief; it resists it. But once accepted as fact, it tells more about the universe, about history, and about man’s state and fate than all the mountains of other facts in the human accumulation.

Life Magazine, Easter issue, 1956

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Benjamin Franklin's own epitaph: *The body of Franklin, printer (like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and stripped of all its lettering and gilding), lies here, food for worms; but the work shall not be lost; for it will appear once more, in a new and more elegant edition, revised and corrected by the Author.*