

Studies in Christianity Private Worship #8

S#1.

Worshipping the God Who Lives ?

S#2.

Text : **Matthew 28: 1-10 ; I Corinthians 15: 1-19**

A. Sorry I was unable to speak last week, but we'll continue our theme now.

1. The overall theme of our most recent lessons has been the need for daily worship.
2. We worship daily because our God is worthy of daily praise.
3. We worship daily in order to build our relationship with God closer and closer.

B. After re-affirming that God is real, our previous lesson was revolved around some biblical proofs that Jesus is God. We observed that :

S#3.

1. Deity was attributed to and claimed by Jesus.
2. Jesus possessed the attributes of deity and manifested them.
3. The works of deity were performed by Jesus.
4. The worship of deity was both offered and accepted by Jesus.

C. This lessons will be centered around the keystone of the Christian faith.

S#4.

1. This is the most important lesson any Christian will ever learn.
2. Jesus went to great effort to prove His resurrection.
3. The resurrection can be proven by legal standards. (*of evidence*)
4. The resurrection has ramifications for us today ??

I. This lesson is the most important lesson you will ever learn.

S#5.

A. It is the most often repeated doctrine in the New Testament.

1. The resurrection is referenced 104 times.
2. Baptism is reference 13 or 14 times.
3. Communion is referred to only 4 times.
4. The only doctrine that's referenced more than the resurrection is the return of Jesus.

B. If the doctrine of the resurrection is not true, Christianity is not true.

1. **I Cor. 15: 13** – But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; **14** and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. **15** Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

S#6.

2. If Jesus the Christ was not resurrected, the whole Christian religion crumbles.
 - a. Our faith is an empty belief system.
 - b. The message we preach is false.

C. If the doctrine of the resurrection is not true, Christians are lost eternally.

1. **I Cor. 15: 16** – For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; **S#7.**
17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.
2. If Christ was not resurrected Christians have lost everything.
 - a. Our system of faith will not save us from sin. (you are still in your sins.)
 - b. Those who have died in Christ have no hope beyond the grave.
3. If Christ was not raised, we are to be pitied because we have no hope.
 - a. We have no forgiveness.
 - b. We will not be raised again.
 - c. We rejected the law as an approach to God.

II. Jesus expended great effort to prove that He was actually resurrected.

S#8.

A. The biblical term for the concept of resurrecting is :

S#9.

1. **anastasis** a resurrection from death, (literally) a rising again.
2. From the verb anistémi which means to cause to stand again. (an-is'-tay-mee)
3. For a person to be resurrected indicates that he was raised to life **again**.

B. Why was the stone rolled away from the tomb ?

1. **Matt. 28: 2** – And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel **S#10.**
 of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone
 and sat upon it. **3** And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing
 as white as snow. **4** The guards shook for fear of him and became like
 dead men. **5** The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know
 that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. **6** "He is not here,
 for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.
2. He did not roll the stone away to let Jesus out of the tomb. **He** was already gone.
 - a. He was able to pass through the locked upper room.
John 20: 19 – So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the **S#11.**
 week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples
were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their
 midst and said to them, " Peace be with you."

- b. **Luke 4: 30** ... Jesus walked right through a hostile crowd.
- c. **Matt. 14: 24-25** ... Jesus walked on the water.

C. The angel instructed the women to look carefully in the tomb.

- 1. The purpose of this was to show that the body of Jesus was gone.
- 2. **John 20: 6** ... John examined the empty tomb, but Peter ran inside.
- 3. God proved that the body of Jesus was not in the tomb.

D. Jesus instructed people to touch Him after He was resurrected.

- 1. The most famous of these was when Thomas put his hand in His side.
John 20: 27 – Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, **S#12.**
and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it
into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."
- 2. **Luke 24: 36-43** ... Instructed the group to handle Him in the upper room.
- 3. Mary clung to the resurrected Jesus in the garden. (*There was substance.*)
a. **John 20: 17** – Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet **S#13.**
ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them,
'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"
b. Obviously there was substance that could be hindered by a physical restraint.
- 4. Jesus ate fish in the upper room to prove He was not just a spirit.
Luke 24: 41 – While they still could not believe it because of their joy and **S#14.**
amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"
42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; **43** and He took it
and ate it before them.
- 5. This is significant when dealing with the first great Greek heresy, Gnosticism.
I John 1: 1 – What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we **S#15.**
have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with
our hands, concerning the Word of Life — **2** and the life was manifested,
and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which
was with the Father and was manifested to us —

E. The resurrection was at the center of apostolic preaching.

- 1. **Acts 2** ... The center of the first gospel sermon was the resurrection.
- 2. The Apostles kept preaching the resurrection. (*sets Jesus apart*)
Acts 4: 1 – As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain **S#16.**
of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, **2** being greatly
disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in
Jesus the resurrection from the dead. **3** And they laid hands on them and
put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening.

3. The resurrection was at the center of the apostle Paul's message.
 - a. **Acts 17** ... He preached the resurrection to the Greeks on Mars Hill.
 - b. **Acts 26** ... He preached the resurrection to King Agrippa.
 - c. **Rom. 6** ... He preached the resurrection to the Romans.
 - d. **I Cor. 15** ... He preached the resurrection as fundamental to the gospel.
4. Without faith in the resurrection of Jesus NO ONE will be saved.

III. The resurrection of Jesus will stand up to the scrutiny of sceptics.

S#17.

A. Many detractors try to use the "swoon theory" to deny the resurrection.

1. The "swoon theory" proposes that Jesus was not really dead when He was buried.
 - a. **Mark 15:44** ... They say Pilot was surprised to hear how quickly Jesus had died.
 - b. **Mark 15: 43** – They say a rich and influential follower (*Joseph of Arimathea*) whisked Jesus away quickly after the crucifixion to avoid scrutiny so it would not be discovered that Jesus was alive.
2. The swoon theory is the most ridiculous of theories.
 - a. The Roman officer who certified Jesus as being dead was an expert.
 - b. **John 19: 32ff** ... The certification of death involved the puncturing of His heart.
 - c. A wounded Jesus would not be able to survive in the tomb and roll the stone way.
 - d. Jesus could not have sneaked past the guards whose life depended on their success.
 - 1) **Acts 12: 3-9** ... The guards were ordered to be killed when Peter escaped.
 - 2) **Acts 16: 25** ... The jailors at Philippi were going to kill themselves to avoid ...

B. Jesus was seen by various witnesses after His resurrection.

1. He made more than 10 appearances that are recorded in scripture. (**I Cor. 15:3-8**)
2. He was seen by those with whom He had had a close relationship.
 - a. Those close disciples who would become His Apostles.
 - b. The women who traveled with Him and cared for Him.
 - c. Members of His family.
3. Jesus stood before a crowd of more than 500 believers after His resurrection.
I Cor. 15: 6 – After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

S#18.

C. Jesus had physical contact with his disciples.

1. They handled Him ... **John 20**
2. They ate with Him ... **Luke 24**

D. There is no court in this country that would require more evidence.

IV. What are the implications of the resurrection to us ?**S#19.****A. The resurrection is the ultimate proof that Jesus is God. Rom. 1: 4**

1. Only God can give life. *"declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection"*
2. Jesus gave life to others and then to Himself.

John 10: 17 – For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down **S#20.**

My life so that I may take it again. **18** "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

B. Jesus promise of His resurrection demonstrated His knowledge of, and authority over future events.

1. **Matt. 16: 21** – From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He **S#21.**
must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.
2. **Matt. 17: 22** – And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; **23** and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved.

C. Jesus accurately foretold His own resurrection, so He can also foretell ours

1. **John 5: 25** – "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when **S#22.**
the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; **27** and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. **28** Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,
29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment."
2. Every person who has ever lived will rise from the grave and stand before God.
3. If this does not happen Jesus is a false prophet and no one can be saved.

D. The return of the Lord will be to resurrect people for eternal judgment.

1. Everyone will stand before God in judgment.
2. It makes no difference if one believes in God or rejects the whole concept.

Phil. 2: 9 – For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on **S#23.**

Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus "every knee will bow", of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

3. There will be **two** resurrections, but both will happen concurrently.

a. Not everyone who dies and is resurrected is “*going to better place.*”

II Thes. 1: 6 – ...when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His **S#24.** mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed.

b. Christians live in anticipation of the resurrection because of the glory that follows.

I Thes. 4:13 – But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about **S#25.** those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

D. The Christian lives in anticipation of this day.

CONCLUSION :

A. This lesson positions us perfectly to begin our next lesson.

B. Of Jesus the Son of God we have observed :

S#26.

1. Jesus proved Himself to be the Son of God with power.
2. Jesus went to great effort to prove His resurrection.
3. The resurrection can be proven by legal standards.
4. The resurrection of Jesus assures our resurrection ??

C. Your salvation depends upon your comprehension and faith in this lesson.

Lesson Text :**Matthew 28: 1-10**

1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. 2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. 3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, " Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. 7 "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

8 And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, " Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

I Corinthians 15: 1-19

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.