

# Moments for YOU

Volume 53, Number 1

Theme: Christ is Risen



*He is not here: for He  
is risen, as He said.*

*Matthew 28:6*

## THE ONE WHO ROSE

Before we come to the examination of what Scripture teaches as to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it will be helpful to investigate these few questions: Who is it that could rise from the dead? What kind of life was it that deserved such a distinction? What kind of death would be worthy of resurrection?

### THE PERSON OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

There must be something arrestingly special in the person of our Lord, seeing His death and resurrection carry with them such far-reaching results. The apostle John, in his wonderful Gospel, presents Christ as the only begotten Son of God—One eternally with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the unity of the Godhead. Scripture declares that He always was the eternal Word, and that “the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). And this divine Person became Man. We read these amazing words: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

With such a Person before us, everything relating to Him is lifted far above that which marks the greatest and wisest of men. We are then not surprised that He was characterized by actions perfectly unique to Himself, and by events quite unlike those which happen to mere men.

### THE CHARACTER OF OUR LORD'S LIFE

Why did the eternal Son of God become man? It was because by man sin entered the world, and death by sin (Romans 5:18). Therefore the penalty of sin must be met by man in order to

give a holy God a righteous basis for offering forgiveness of sins and eternal life to guilty men. What man was sufficient for this? It is evident that the one who could do this must himself be perfectly sinless, one upon whom death had no claim. And who could fulfill that condition? Look at the billions of the human race. Is there one untainted by sin? All are sinners. All need a Saviour.

Only one could come forward, and this was the sinless One, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of the Father. He alone could say, “Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God” (Hebrews 10:7). This is why our Lord became man, yet never ceased to be the eternal Son in the unity of the Godhead with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

With delight we follow the record of His blameless, spotless life as man on this earth. He was perfectly sinless in thought, word and deed. He never apologized for anything He said or did, for there was never the slightest occasion for His doing so. In fullest measure He always did His Father's will. Here was One, the likes of whom before or since the world has never seen. He was “God manifest in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16).

### THE CHARACTER OF OUR LORD'S DEATH

And yet it was not His holy, blameless life that could save men from the penalty of their sins. True, if He had not been sinless, He could not have been the sinner's Saviour, yet Scripture teaches us that it is not His *life* that saves, but His atoning *death*, and that alone. Scripture lays great emphasis on our Lord's death. “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son

**MOMENTS FOR YOU Vol. 53, 1st Quarter, 2009.** A quarterly publication sent free upon request as the Lord provides.

**Publisher:** Moments With The Book, PO Box 322, Bedford, PA 15522. A non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. Visit us online at [www.mwtb.org](http://www.mwtb.org) **Senior Editor:** Tim Johnson **Editor:** T. Don Johnson



cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

All the righteous judgment of God against sin was poured out on the holy Person of our Lord Jesus Christ as He hung upon the Cross of Calvary. There and only there did mercy and truth meet; there and only there did righteousness and peace kiss each other (Psalm 85:10). There only could be heard the triumphant cry, “It is finished” (John 19:30).

God can now righteously and gloriously forgive any sinner who truly puts his trust in the Saviour, who “once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). We miss the whole point of the Scriptures if we fail to realize that our Lord’s death was absolutely unique, that no one has ever died a death like His, that no other person could experience such a death, for it was an atoning, sacrificial death, absolutely necessary for man’s salvation. May these few thoughts as to the Person who rose from the dead lead the reader to a fuller understanding of the significance of His resurrection.

—A.J. Pollock

## HE AROSE

Man, in his preoccupation with the things of the world, is inclined to forget his greatest enemies: Satan, sin, and death. This terrific array of might he is unable to cope with. Hence the purpose of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into the world—to defeat these invincibles that rightly terrorize man. Our blessed Lord defeated Satan in the wilderness, conquered sin by His sinless life and death, and vanquished death, “the king of terrors,” by His triumphant resurrection.

### THE GREATEST MIRACLE

The Bible gives more space and attaches more importance to the literal,

bodily resurrection of Christ than to any other miracle. Obviously, if this miracle can be substantiated we will have no difficulty with the rest of the Bible. Therefore, God has seen to it that the resurrection is one of the most demonstrable facts of history. Every conceivable objection that the fertile mind of man can raise against Christ’s resurrection has been answered by the soundest reasoning and ablest Christian scholarship. Most certainly “We have not followed cunningly devised fables” (2 Peter 1:16).

### TAKING SIDES

Paul said, Christ was “declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4). His crucifiers declared Him to be criminal and unfit to live (John 18:30,31). God on the other hand ran entirely contrary to man’s opinion and raised Him from the dead and exalted Jesus to His own right hand.

So those in the world today must take their sides. To reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour is to join those who crucified Him. To believe on Him with a faith coupled with repentance means siding with God and enthroning Christ in the individual heart. Reader, have you done this very thing? “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

### SIN QUESTION SETTLED

The resurrection proves that God has removed the believer’s sins as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). Jesus, because of who He is, did what only He could do—be a propitiation for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). The death of the Lord Jesus settles the sin debt of every believer, and His resurrection

is like a receipt to the bill. “[He] was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:25). On the cross He made Himself responsible for our sins, and in His resurrection God demonstrated that He is satisfied with the work of the cross.

### THE BELIEVER’S RESURRECTION

The resurrection of Christ assures the Christian of the kind of resurrection that he will enjoy. “As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (1 Corinthians 15:49). In this world we all bear the image of fallen Adam—a prey to sin, sickness, and death. So in the resurrection we shall be like Christ—sinless, deathless, a child of God adopted to sonship and a joint heir with Christ. We who have this blessed hope are exhorted to be purifying ourselves, and by occupation with Christ to be daily becoming more like Him. “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18). —Edwin Fesche

## CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS

*“Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20).*

On the day that Jesus arose, the firstfruit sheaf of the barley harvest was being waved by the High Priest in the Temple, as the representative of the myriads that stood stacked amid the stubble of the fields. It was the specimen sheaf—the representative, pattern, and pledge of all the rest. The risen Christ is the pattern and pledge of what His people will be when their bodies shall be fashioned anew in the likeness of His resurrection.

—F.B. Meyer

## IF CHRIST BE NOT RISEN

*“If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:14,17).* Everything depends upon this one central fact: a risen Christ.

### HIS CLAIMS UNFULFILLED

If Jesus Christ had not risen, what would it have meant so far as He Himself was concerned? It would have proved that the greatest claims He ever made were valueless, and that in dying He failed to do all that His own teaching said He would accomplish. He said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). The interpretation of His meaning came by way of the resurrection. For a sign to cynical seekers, He said: “As Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:40). To the critical multitudes He said: “I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again” (John 10:17,18). None of these things were true unless He rose again.

### HIS WORK UNFINISHED

If He had not risen, what would it have meant concerning His work? When He was crucified, one disciple betrayed Him, another denied Him, and then at the end of three years of public ministry we have the whole tragic story in this one sentence: “They all forsook Him, and fled” (Mark 14:50). With the death of Jesus, the whole movement was at an end—unless He came back.

Where is the Atonement if this man has gone down to death to abide in death? How can He break

my bond, or set me free, or blot out my transgressions? If He rose not, preaching is empty. If He rose not, your faith is vain; you are yet in your sins, held by them, bound by them, mastered by them, damned by them. If He rose not, His was an ordinary death, and the doctrine of justification is unutterable nonsense.

### THE GLORIOUS TRUTH

“But now is Christ risen from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:20). What glorious truth! The testimony of the disciples is our first line of proof. Their record of the Lord’s various appearances, their unwavering testimony despite their own previous unbelief and the intense persecution they faced—that is the first line of proof. The testimony of Paul himself is also proof. What made Saul the persecutor into Paul the missionary? He saw Jesus and heard Him, and found out that He whom he had thought of as dead was alive, and so forevermore the motto of his thinking and preaching was, “It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God” (Romans 8:34).

### NOT VAIN AT ALL

The Apostle says if Christ did not rise, then “preaching is vain,” but for nearly two thousand years the preaching of Christ has not been vain. Pardon follows it. Peace comes after it. Power results from it. The final line of evidence of actual and positive resurrection from the dead is the church, that holy company of men and women and children, gathered from all nations—gathered as the result of the preaching of Christ crucified and risen. Individuals who trust Him share His life, and that life is manifest as it masters them and changes them. Christ is risen!

—G. Campbell Morgan (adapted)

## BELIEVE HIS WORD

Mary wept because the Lord was no longer in the tomb. Instead, she should have wept if He *had* been there. Had He remained in the grave, we would have been without a Saviour. Does it not show that we often weep senselessly? Jacob said, “All these things are against me” (Genesis 42:36), when in reality they were working together for the most wonderful blessings. Mary’s unbelief was responsible for her tears. Had not the Lord told her and the others repeatedly that He was to rise from the dead the third day? Oh, how much sorrow we bring upon ourselves because we do not believe His word. —A.V.R.

## RESURRECTION REMEDIES

*“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25).* As deep and varied as are the necessities of the believer’s soul, they are all met by the death and resurrection of Christ.

### SINS REMOVED

If the question of sin affects the believer’s soul, the resurrection is the glorious proof of the complete putting away of it. The moment I see Jesus at the right hand of God, I see an end of sin; for I know He could not be there if sin was not fully atoned for. On the cross He stood as our Representative, He took upon Him our iniquities, and went down into the grave under the weight thereof. “But God raised Him from the dead” (Acts 13:30), and by so doing, expressed His full approval of the work of redemption.

### BURDENS LIFTED

Along the trying and often difficult path of Christian testimony, we find that Jesus risen is a sovereign remedy

for all the ills of life. This is happily exemplified for us when Mary goes to the tomb early in the morning (Mark 16; John 20). Her heart was not only sad at the loss of her gracious friend, but also tried by the difficulty of removing the stone from the mouth of the cave. The resurrection removed both her sorrow and her burden.

We may, as Mary, feel like crying out, "Who shall roll ... away the stone?" Who? The risen Jesus. Apprehend resurrection, and you are raised above the influence of every burden. Our burdens will not vanish, but they will no longer sink us into the dust, because our hearts are buoyed up by the blessed truth that our Lord is risen from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of God. When we see that our place is there with Him, faith leads the soul upward, even into the holy serenity of the Divine presence, and it enables us to cast our burdens on the Lord, assured that He will sustain them for us.

#### GRIEF CARRIED

Have our hearts been broken and bereaved by the stern, rude hand of death? What is the remedy? Resurrection, that great restorer, heals, soothes and binds up our hearts by securing the restoration and reunion of all who have gone in faith before. It tells us to "sorrow not, even as others which have no hope, for if we believe that Jesus died, and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him" (1 Thessalonians. 4:13,14). It is said that "time heals all wounds," but to the Christian time is a poor substitute for resurrection and its immortal joys.

#### FEARS RELIEVED

In John 20:19 we read: "When the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst,

and said unto them, Peace be unto you." The Lord Jesus remedied the fear of His poor disciples by coming into their midst and associating Himself with them in all their circumstances. It was not so much a question of actual deliverance from the matter that caused the fear, but rather raising their souls above it by fellowship with Himself. They forgot the Jews, they forgot their fear, they forgot everything, because their souls were occupied with their risen Lord.

The Lord's way is often to leave His people in their trials and then to be with them therein. Paul desired to get rid of his suffering, but the Lord's answer was, "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Corinthians 12:9). It is a far richer mercy to have the grace and presence of Jesus *in* the trials of life, than to be delivered *from* them. The Lord allowed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be cast into the fiery furnace, but He came down and walked with them in it (Daniel 3). This was an infinitely more powerful display of His grace and love than if He had kept them from being cast in.

May it be our heart's desire to find ourselves in company with the risen Lord as we pass through this trying scene. Then, whether it be the furnace of affliction or the storm of persecution, we shall have peace. Whether it be the bereavement of the heart, the burden of the shoulder, the difficulty of the mind, or the fear of the heart, all will be remedied by fellowship with Him who was raised from the dead. —C.H. Mackintosh

***"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).***

## ASSURED OF WHAT?

Christ's resurrection is past, but it assures us of the two resurrections yet to come. The *first resurrection* is reserved for believers, and is unto glory and blessing (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:5,6). The *second resurrection* is for unbelievers, and leads only to judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

### THE BELIEVER'S ASSURANCE OF LIFE

"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" (Romans 8:11).

### THE UNBELIEVER'S ASSURANCE OF DOOM

"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" (Acts 17:31). "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

**Of what are you assured?**

## THE GLADDEST NEWS

The resurrection is a glorious reality, for we have documentary, institutional, and experiential proofs. It validates the Gospel message, it authenticates faith, it certifies the Christian testimony, it secures the believer's salvation, and it authorizes the Divine program and the great commission. It guarantees the Christian's future resurrection; it gives full assurance to a blest immortality and life everlasting; it stamps the entire Word of God with full, infallible authority. Blessed be God!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the greatest miracle of history. It is something beyond

the ordinary processes of nature. It is the highest peak in the whole mountain range of Divine truth. It is the Gibraltar of Christianity. It is the Waterloo of infidelity. It is the finale in the redemptive scheme. It is the most brilliant sun that shines in God's heaven. Modernism cannot endure its luster. A compromising, lukewarm church trembles before the mighty Conqueror of death; for the blessed fact of the resurrection is intrinsically wrought into the very philosophy of redemption, and without it preaching is vain, faith is mockery, salvation is preposterous and empty, the promises remain unverified, and God is untrue, unreal, unknown. But, blessed be God, Christ lives today!

From World War II comes a beautiful, touching story. One day an American mother received a very special letter written in familiar handwriting.

*"Dear Mom:*

*It is comparatively quiet where I am today, but no one knows how long it will be. If this letter reaches you, it will mean that I can't write another one, for I'm putting this away with my things, and asking that it be sent to you. I just want to say, Mom don't grieve for me. 'I know that my Redeemer liveth.' My trust is in Him who 'loved me, and gave Himself for me,' and because He lives, I, too, shall live. Don't ever say of me, 'He's gone.' Say, 'He lives!' Because, Mom, when you read this, I shall be very much alive, and waiting for you in Christ's presence.*

*With love, John"*

The letter was read through blind-tears; yet in the darkest hours there were joy and gladness, and at length she said, "This—really—is good news. He lives—waiting in Christ's presence." —Herald of Holiness

## THE RESURRECTED LIFE

*“That I may know Him, and the power of his resurrection” (Phil. 3:10).*

Christian, do you know the power of the resurrection of Christ? Are your thoughts those of one who is risen with Him, set on things above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God? Are you, as being raised up with Him, dead to sin, dead to the pleasures, to the greatness, to the fading glory of the world which crucified the Lord of glory? Do the things of the world—those things which, as far as man was concerned, caused the death of Jesus—no longer exercise any influence over your thoughts and over your life?

Do you desire to be something in the world? Ah! you do not see yourself as dead in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14,15). The darkness which surrounded the cross is still upon your heart. You do not breathe the fresh air of the resurrection of Jesus, of the presence of your God. Oh! dull and senseless people of God—people ignorant of your real treasures, of your real liberty! Yes, to be alive with Christ is to be dead to all that the flesh desires.

But if the risen life of Christ, the joy of the light of His presence, the divine and tender love of which Jesus is the expression and the object, beam on you; if the things which please you are the beauty of holiness in the heavenly places, and the universal and perfect homage rendered to God by hearts which never tire, whose adorations serve but to renew their strength, and all things full of the glory of God, giving occasion to praises, whose source never dries up, and whose subjects never fail—if these things please you, then mortify your members which are upon the earth.

The friendship of the world is enmity with God. Christian, do you believe this? Death has written its sentence on all things here: by cherishing them you only fill his hand. The resurrection of Christ gives you a right to bury them, and to bury death itself with them in the grave, the grave of Christ; that “whether we live, we live unto the Lord” (Romans 14:8), inheritors with Him in a new life of all the promises. Remember that if you are saved, you are risen with Christ. May He, from whom all grace and every perfect gift proceed, grant you this

—J.N. Darby

***The believer must know where the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ have forever set him, before he can be an intelligent worshipper, an acceptable servant, or an effectual witness.*** —C.H. Mackintosh

## NOT A MOMENT MORE

*“Jesus ... whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it” (Acts 2:24)*

A stanza from an old hymn says that Jesus Christ “burst the bars” of the grave and “tore its bands away.” If a man bursts the bars of the state prison, the entire police force of the commonwealth will be after him to bring him back. If, on the contrary, he has served out his full time, all the power in the state cannot retain him a single hour longer.

It was prophesied that Jesus Christ must remain in the grave three days, but after that time had expired there was not enough power in heaven nor in hell to retain Him even one more moment.

—A.J. Gordon