

THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Jon Macon

Luke 24:1-3 says, "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." The Lord's body was not in the tomb, because he had been raised from the dead early that morning. Mark 16:9 plainly states that Jesus was resurrected on Sunday, the first day of the week: "*Jesus was risen early the first day of the week.*" It is his resurrection that declares him to be the Son of God (Rom 1:4). And these signs of his resurrection are written so that we "*might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name*" (John 20:30-31).

The appearance of the tomb

The ones who first found Christ's empty tomb that Sunday morning were several women, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, who went and informed the apostles of what they found (Luke 24:4-10). Next, Peter and John went to the tomb (John 20:3; Luke 24:12). They went into the sepulcher, stooped down, and saw the linen clothes (John 20:3-7; Luke 24:12) "laid by themselves" (Luke 24:12), "and the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself" (John 20:7). When Peter saw the arrangement of the graveclothes, he wondered in himself at that which was come to pass (Luke 24:12). When John saw this, he believed that Jesus had been raised from the dead (John 20:8-9).

On the road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-16 tells us of two disciples who walked with the resurrected Christ to the village of Emmaus on that same Sunday: "And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him." Those two disciples, Simon and Cleopas, did not physically

THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

(continued)

recognize Jesus (Luke 24:16). They did not recognize him because he “*appeared in another form*” (Mark 16:12). But then Jesus “sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them” (Luke 24:30). It was this familiar action done by Christ that caused their eyes to be opened so that they knew him (Luke 24:31). Simon and Cleopas told the apostles that Jesus “*was known of them in breaking of bread*” (Luke 24:35). Luke 24:31 says that Jesus suddenly “*vanished out of their sight*” when they realized who he was.

Later that day

On the Sunday of his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples as they were gathered together (Luke 24:33-43; John 20:19-24). It was remarkable that Jesus suddenly appeared in the room which the disciples had locked for fear of the Jews (Luke 24:36; John 20:19). This would explain why the disciples were frightened and thought they had seen a spirit (Luke 24:37).

Infallible proof of Christ's resurrection

All of these unusual events that occurred in the resurrection of Christ are called “*infallible proofs*” of his resurrection (Acts 1:3). Acts 26:23 says that Christ was “*the first that should rise from the dead.*”

Colossians 1:18 refers to Christ as “*the firstborn from the dead,*” and Revelation 1:5 says he was “*the first begotten of the dead.*” Christ is also called the “*firstfruits*” of the resurrection (1 Cor 15:20-23; Col 1:18; Rev 1:5). At the end of time, when the dead in Christ are raised, the spirit will return to the body but the body will be transformed “*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*” (1 Cor 15:51-53), and it will be raised an incorruptible, glorious, powerful spiritual body (1 Cor 15:42-44). This is defined as the victory over death (1 Cor 15:54) because, without this kind of resurrection, we would have no hope of entering heaven (1 Cor 15:50), and we would of all men most miserable (1 Cor 15:19). Christ was truly victorious over death in his resurrection (Rom 6:8-9). Therefore, our hope for this kind of resurrection is based in the resurrection of Christ (1 Pet 1:3-5; 2 Cor 4:13-14; 5:1-8; Php 3:10-14,20-21). “*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord*” (1 Cor 15:58).