

# Banner

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"You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of truth." Psalm 60:4

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*"Pleasing God,  
Making Disciples  
of  
Jesus Christ"*

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF QUIDNESSETT BAPTIST CHURCH

**T**he celebration of Easter recently concluded. Why a celebration? For the Christian that question is a given - we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus who provided victory over sin and the grave.

There are so many ramifications of the resurrection that time and space obviously do not allow a thorough application. However, one thing is certainly true and worthy of note. The resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Take away the resurrection of Jesus and there is no Christianity. The Apostle Paul clearly stated this in the fifteenth chapter of his letter to the Corinthians, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (I Corinthians

15:17). Now when looking at the resurrection we must be very careful not to reduce it to an historical event or theological truth. Both are certainly true but the resurrection goes beyond the theoretical. The resurrection is not just a historical truth but a practical reality. But all

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too often a Christian fails to see just how practical Jesus' resurrection may become in their lives. On the other side of the spectrum are those who either doubt or disbelieve the resurrection seeing no relevancy for life.

In this issue of "The Banner" we will look at some aspects of our Lord's resurrection ranging from its place in daily living to the struggle with doubting it and finally seeing the evidence in a believer who truly trusts in the resurrection. So, sit back and be challenged!

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## GOSPEL GLIMPSES

No Christian at one time or another has avoided the painful experience of doubt. It may range from doubt of God's provision to doubt of salvation to, yes, even doubt of Jesus' resurrection. We are not alone in this struggle.

"As they were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood among them, and said to them, 'Peace to you.' But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?' " This is Luke's account of a post resurrection appearance of the Lord to His disciples and offers us some lessons concerning doubt and the resurrection. First and obvious is the presence of doubt. The disciples were

overcome by its presence. We cannot take this for granted or ignore it. Alistair McGrath writes, "Many Christians thus suppress their doubts. They think that it is improper to own up to them. Or they are afraid that they will look stupid if they do. Maybe they are worried that their pride would suffer."

Jesus exposes the doubt and its location - the hearts of the disciples. Solomon tells us "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23). Doubts are deeply rooted in our hearts and they are not eradicated at new birth. They will have to be fought off until Jesus comes or we join Him.

A second lesson is the consequences of doubt. When Jesus identified their doubt He began with the

statement, "Why are you troubled?" Doubts produce pain - heart pain. They cause inner turmoil in the believer and in the case of the disciples may have included unwarranted fear. When doubt dominates a believer the result will be spiritual paralysis. This will extend into all areas of spiritual life robbing one of the joy and liberty of being in Christ.

A final lesson from the disciples about doubt is the solution - supernatural truth revealed by God. Only God can cure doubt. Later on in the account Luke writes, "Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." The Lord led the disciples from the defeat of doubt to the victory of faith. It is a futile attempt to quiet doubt on our own because it is rooted in the remaining corruption. May the Lord free us!

## THE PASTOR'S PEN

Is there a practical side of the resurrection of the Lord? I mean how does it actually impact the Christian life? There are quite a few areas in which the Lord's resurrection may be applied in the journey to heaven.

First and foremost is the position with God it gives us. Paul tells us, "But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:23-25). Our greatest need is to be made right with God or justified. In order for this to occur, the price of sin had to be paid and accepted. By virtue of the resurrection we have the assurance that God accepts us or justifies us apart from

anything we do or can do.

Another application is the daily battle against sin. One knows the tremendous struggle in the spiritual warfare we are called to conduct. The foes of the world, devil, and self must be taken seriously. One great weapon is the resurrection and in

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***"Heavenly thinking produces holy living."***

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particular, our union in Christ's resurrection. Notice how Paul puts it, "For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His." We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin" (Romans 6:5-6). Learning how by faith to identify with Christ in His

resurrection is the key to overcoming power in the Christian life.

A third practical way the resurrection enters our lives is the transformation it will do in our thinking patterns. Again from the Apostle Paul, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth" (Colossians 3:1-2). Heavenly thinking produces holy living. The resurrection enables us to think heavenly.

Finally, the resurrection gives us the awesome privilege to know and love God. Without the resurrection, we are incapable and lack the desire to do either. In the resurrection, Jesus gives us a knowable God who longs to give Himself to a people who have found the empty tomb their salvation and hope!



## WALKING AWAY FROM FAITH

Ruth A. Tucker

IVP

*Hardbound, 238 pages*

This is a very interesting book addressing a topic many Christians don't want to discuss but is a reality in the journey to heaven. The topic is unbelief and belief.

The author beginning with her own experience addresses the struggles with living the life of faith. She provides case studies of contemporary individuals and couples who have abandoned the faith. Additionally, historical perspective to include insight of the fight against doubt and belief associated with spiritual giants such as Martin Luther and John Calvin.

I think you will find this book thought-provoking and may even provide encouragement if you have ever fought doubt.

### QUOTABLE QUOTE

“As no one can give himself faith, neither can he take away his unbelief.”

MARTIN LUTHER

Trust or true belief in the resur-

### WALKING WITH THE MASTER

rection of Jesus Christ is extremely important. Eternally important. Denial or failure to believe His resurrection has horrible consequences beyond description. But this article is about trust in the resurrection and in particularly what true trust would look like in a life. Let's look at Thomas in John's Gospel.

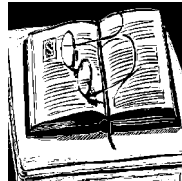
“Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe’.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God! (John 20:26-28)

This is a familiar account of one who goes from unbelief to belief in the resurrected Lord Jesus. The response of Thomas is a powerful example of true belief in the risen Lord. Thomas responds to the Lord with these words, “My Lord and my God!” There are two practical lessons revealing trust in the resurrection.

First is the acknowledgement of deity. Thomas was quick to recognize the Lord Jesus was more than just a man. True belief hangs on the belief that Jesus Christ is divine.

Second lesson is implied and that is submission to the Lordship of Jesus. A true belief will always find a submissive heart leading to active obedience to the commands of the risen one! May trust flourish in our lives!

### DID YOU KNOW?



In this issue we will look at perhaps the most influential Christian movement in American history -

The American Puritans.

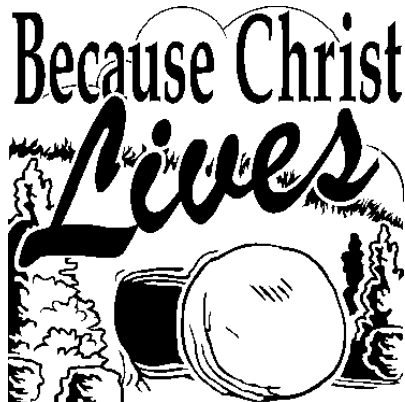
- Puritans called Rhode Island “the latrine of New England” because it permitted all sorts of religious beliefs.
- The famous “Pilgrims”, who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620, were so radical they were usually disliked and sometimes hated. Unlike most Puritans, they did not seek to reform the Church of England; they thought the church was beyond help.
- New England residents who failed to attend worship services on Sunday morning and afternoon were fined or put into stocks. Failing to glorify God for all His good gifts was a sacrilege.
- There was no religious freedom in New England. Quakers and Baptists were often forced to pay higher taxes or were banished.
- Worshipers in New England were assigned seats by a committee. The best seats went to the minister and family. African-Americans and native Americans were assigned the lowest-ranked seats, usually in second-floor galleries. Men and women sat on opposite sides.
- American Puritans did not celebrate religious holidays such as Easter or Christmas. The weekly “Lord’s Day was enough.

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## Practical Aspects of the Resurrection

### *QBC HAPPENINGS*

#### MAY 2007

- Missions Conference will be held *Friday through Sunday, May 4th to 6th*
- Young at Heart Fellowship will be held on *Tuesday, May 8th*
- Part 5 of the DVD series DOES THE TRUTH MATTER ANY-MORE? will be shown on *Sunday evening, May 20th*
- Men's Ministry Fellowship will be held *Tuesday, May 29th.*

#### JUNE 2007

- Young at Heart Portland trip will be held on *Monday, June 4th*
- Men's Ministry Fellowship will be held *Tuesday, June 26th.*

THE QUIDNESSETT

# Banner

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