The God of True Justice

Romans 3:25
"God presented Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice.."

April 8th

The Judge's Verdict

Romans 1:4 & 1 Corinthians 15

GETTING THE BIG PICTURE

Years ago there was a minister in Durham who vacationed every Easter. Just a little odd that when Easter came around the sermon always was given by an associate. When asked by someone from another church why this happened, a parishioner said, "I think its because he doesn't really believe in the resurrection—so he's got nothing to say". Believe it or not, there are all kinds of folks (some pastors) who are convinced that Jesus' resurrection really isn't that important. They would say the teachings of Christ hold true whether or not He came out of a grave. But the Scriptures seem to tell quite a different story. They claim that without a resurrection sins are still unforgiven, there is no hope for the future, and Jesus is just another "good" dead guy. This week we remind ourselves of the importance of that empty grave.

Optional Readings

Revelation 20-22 Because He rose, take a look at the future for those who believe

GETTING INTO THE TEXT

Study Day(s)

READ & OBSERVE: Romans 1:4 & 1 Corinthians 15

Write down anything you find interesting or unique about this passage.

ANSWER

God's declaration (ordination) of His Son. (Romans 1:2-4)

1. The book of Romans begins with the apostle saying he was set apart for the Gospel. He then talks about the subject of that Gospel—Jesus. Who was this Jesus according to his "human nature"?

2. Focus on verse 4. There is a declaration/ordination that happens here. What is it that the Father declared about the Son? How (or when) did this declaration happen? If there had been no resurrection, what would this mean in regards to who Jesus is?

The Fruits of the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12-28)

3. Verse 12 begins a section by telling us that there existed in Corinth a challenge to the Gospel. What was it that folks were saying just wasn't true?

4. Over the next 7 verses the apostle lists all that would be true if Jesus is still in the grave. Write that list down. Which of these truths speak the most to your heart, and why?

5. Beginning in verse 20 it all turns around. The affirmation that Jesus indeed came out of the grave leads to great hope for all believers. From verse 20-27, list all that is true because of the resurrection of Jesus.

6. The word firstfruits is used multiple times in this passage. What does it mean, and how does this term become for us the source of great hope as we face the future?

GETTING TO THE HEART

Application Day

If there is a word that sums up Easter it is HOPE. As you think through the fact that the grave is empty, and understand that it is the first of many graves to be empty, describe how this gives hope to your life.

What would you say to a friend, work mate, family member, etc. who claimed that Jesus' resurrection just isn't that important? (this is a great truth to truly challenge folks about where their future hope lies)