

The Encouraging Message of the Resurrection

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I. Introduction. Text: Matthew 28.

II. The resurrection is encouraging because of Jesus' status.

A. Jesus Christ is alive seated in heaven serving as our advocate. He prepares a place for us. He is living in every single person who has received Him. (Hebrews 10)

B. Believers know that Jesus Christ is alive—this is the encouraging message of the resurrection.

III. The resurrection is encouraging because it is a demonstration that our sins are forgiven. (Hebrews 9-10)

A. Jesus was a substitute for our sin.

B. The resurrection demonstrates that God accepted Christ's sacrifice.

C. Without the resurrection, we do not know whether our sins were forgiven.

IV. The resurrection is encouraging because it is proof that we will live forever. (John 11)

V. The resurrection is encouraging because Jesus is living in the inside.

VI. The resurrection is encouraging because heaven is our home. (John 5:28-29, I Corinthians 15, I Thessalonians 4, Philippians 3:20-21)

A. We will receive an imperishable body.

B. We could not believe in a future body for ourselves if Christ had not been raised.

C. Jesus knows how to put the body back together—everybody will be raised, some for judgment and some for reward. (Revelation 21)

D. We will see Jesus face to face.

E. We will know each other in heaven. (I Thessalonians 4)

F. We will know and see clearly in heaven. (I Corinthians 13:12)

G. If a person does not believe in the resurrection, he has no hope.

Application questions:

1. Why is belief in resurrection so critical to the Christian faith? Explain.

2. How does resurrection prove that our sins are forgiven?

3. How would you respond to someone who says he or she believes in Jesus, but he or she believes that Jesus' resurrection was only spiritual?
