

The Resurrection Gospel:

The Annual celebration of Resurrection Sunday forces the church to think about the truths of Christ's resurrection. Christians understand that every Lord's Day is Resurrection Day, but Resurrection Sunday is the festival that draws all Christians face to face with the empty tomb and the truth of the resurrected Lord. The secular world has done its best to make a mess of Christmas. Where commercialism comes in is in the form of eggs, chicks and rabbits, none of which claim any connection with the Resurrection. The fact is, the secular world will attempt to commercialize the babe in the manger, but it will run from the cross and the empty tomb. The cross stands as condemnation on the fallen world and they want to hide the cross from sight. The empty tomb is the seal and confirmation of the cross, and the world does not want to bring attention to the cross or the tomb. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead separates Christianity from all religion whatever its form. Christianity without the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead is merely one religion among many. "And if Christ is not risen," said the Apostle Paul, "then our preaching is empty and your faith is in vain" [1 Cor. 15:14]. Furthermore, "You are still in your sins!" [v. 17b]. The resurrection of Christ has been under persistent attacks since the apostolic age. Why? Because it is the central confirmation of Jesus' identity as the incarnate Son of God, and the ultimate sign of Christ's completed work of atonement, redemption, reconciliation, and salvation. Those who oppose Christ, whether first century or twentieth century, recognize the Resurrection as the proof of Christ against His enemies. The Resurrection was the literal, physical raising of Jesus' body from the dead. The Church is founded upon the resurrection Lord, who appeared among His disciples and was seen by hundreds of others. The Church has a mandate to proclaim the truth that God raised Jesus from the dead. The resurrected Lord gave the Church a sacred commission to take the gospel throughout the world. Paul made it clear; the resurrection of Christ also comes as a comfort to the believer, for His defeat of death is a foretaste and promise of our own resurrection by his power. So, as the Church gathers to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we should look backward in thankfulness to that empty tomb and forward to the fulfillment of Christ's total victory over sin, hell and the grave. The Resurrection of Jesus is at the very center of the Christian Gospel. And the empty tomb is full of power! (This was inspired by a letter by Dr. Al Mohler)

Pastor Robert Finif