

FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade
Pastor David M. Evangelista ~ 4.12.09 ~ Resurrection Day
Text: Acts 2:22-36 ~ "Our Hope is not in Vain"

The resurrection of our Lord is the foundational stone of all Christian doctrine. Upon this truth all other Christian teaching stands or falls. The whole fabric of Christianity is woven around the empty tomb of God's Son. To rationalize—to try to understand the resurrection would be futile—God wants us to simply believe by faith.

The resurrection of Christ is:

1. The most crowning event in Christianity. It crowns Christ as the promised Messiah *Matthew 20:17-19—Luke 18:31*. The fact is the Lord predicted His own death and resurrection unlike all other religious leaders of all ages—Jesus Christ is alive today. His resurrection crowns Him as the Savior of the world *John 11:25-26*. His resurrection crowns Him as the eternal Son of God *Romans 1:1-4*. So we learn, the resurrection of Christ is the most "crowning event" in all history!

2. The resurrection of Christ is also the most certain event in all history. A great well-known lawyer of the past century said: "The resurrection of Christ is one of the best attested incidents in history. The evidence of this is overwhelming." We know this statement is true because it was announced by angelic beings in *Luke 24:1-7*. *It was also acclaimed by faithful women Luke 24:8-10* and it was witnessed by many saints *1 Corinthians 15:3-8*. Those who question the resurrection will tell us that those who claimed to see Christ after His resurrection were hallucinating! Can over 5500 men who saw Him hallucinate at the same time? It was also proclaimed by the apostles in *Acts 26:22-23*. As a martyr Paul not only lived for Christ, but died for Him. Would Paul have died for a lie? **Because it assures us of**

3. The resurrection is the most comforting event of Christianity. Why?

Because it assures us of salvation *Romans 4:24... "but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead."* *Romans 10:9—"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved."* *Hebrews 7:25—"Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him because He always lives to intercede for them."* The resurrection also assures us that the **hope** of the saints of all ages is not in vain! *Isaiah 26:19—"But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead."* *Job 19:25-27—"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me."* *Philippians 3:20-21—"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so they will be like His glorious body."* His resurrection also assures us that we shall see our loved ones who have died in the Lord. *1 Thessalonians 4:14-18—"We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so be believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left to the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After*

that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words." These words are indeed the most comforting words from the God of the ages who raised His Son from the grave!

To think about: The resurrection of Christ is the most crowning, most certain the most comforting in the history of world of literature and inspirational writings because His word is trustworthy and true! Count on it!

