

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 15:1-4**.
- B. This is my first sermon delivered as a pulpit evangelist in Sentinel, OK.
- C. This morning let us assume that all of us believe in the resurrection of Christ. This belief then brings certain conclusions for our lives.
- D. A "cause and effect" relationship is now present. Since Jesus was raised (the cause) what is the effect He is having on our lives?
- E. Listed are four implications of the resurrection:
 - 1. God approved Christ.
 - 2. God elevated Christ.
 - 3. God validated baptism.
 - 4. God gave Christians power to live their lives.

I. **FIRST, GOD APPROVED CHRIST.**

- A. We realize that even before the resurrection that God approved Jesus as His beloved Son (Mt. 3:17; 12:18; 17:5; Isa. 42:1).
- B. Jesus said many things about God that needed to be proved:
 - 1. God was His heavenly Father.
 - 2. We should pray to this God (and taught us how).
 - 3. He and His Father are one.
 - 4. God, only, knew when the end of the world is.
- C. So if Jesus doesn't come out of the grave on the 3rd day, Jesus is a liar and this "God" that Jesus spoke of is not the true God.
- D. Even though Jesus died a sinful death, and God forsook Him, God still approved that life and death by raising Him on the 3rd day. If God had not approved, He would not have raised Him (Ac. 2:22-24).

II. **SECOND, GOD ELEVATED CHRIST.**

- A. In a passage that I used in June, when we were first with you, we see Jesus being glorified by God (Phil. 2:9-11).
- B. We see this same elevation, as Christ is pictured as victorious and ruling (Rev. 19:16).
- C. Upon the ascension, Christ would be seated on David's throne in heaven, a position of great exultation (Ac. 2:29-31).

III. **THIRD, GOD VALIDATED BAPTISM.**

- A. The command "repent and be baptized" given by Peter is null and void if Jesus was not resurrected.
- B. Since baptism is parallel of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection if Jesus had not come out of the grave to live a new life, then we could not rise from baptism to live a new life (1Pet. 3:21b).
- C. If Jesus had remained in the tomb then we would (figuratively speaking) remain in the watery grave of baptism and could not rise to live a new life (Rom. 6:5).

IV. **FOURTH, GOD GIVES CHRISTIAN POWER TO LIVE CHRISTIAN LIVES.**

- A. The apostle John opens the book of Revelation which a picture of a risen, powerful Christ.
- B. This is special because the people to whom written Here under great persecution.
- C. Knowing that Jesus overcame the final enemy of death, we realize there is nothing to fear from Satan.
- D. The resurrection proves Jesus to be the Son of God and then He gives me the power to live my life (Rom. 1:4).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Believing the resurrection has certain implications for our lives:
 - 1. Knowing that God approved Christ.
 - 2. Knowing that God elevated Christ.
 - 3. Knowing that baptism saves.
 - 4. Knowing that God gives us power through Christ to live our lives.
- B. Let us act upon our belief in the resurrection.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.