

Matthew 28:1-8

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." 8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

Upon that great fact hangs the entire plan of redemption. Without the resurrection there could be no such thing as Salvation. Jesus predicted His resurrection many times...Matthew 12:40 "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"

There are certain laws of evidence that make something an established historic event. There must be documentation of the event made by reliable contemporary witnesses. There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty three. The truth is that historians will accept most things as fact even when there are only shreds of evidence. But most continue to deny the overwhelming evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I don't have faith that Jesus existed...I have faith that He is the Son of God and that His sacrifice paid the price for my sin!

I have great news for you...the resurrection happened and because he lives...John 14:19 "Because He lives, I live also"

Why is the resurrection so important...? Because it confirms...

1. That Christ was undeniably God...John 14:8-10
2. That God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins...Romans 4:23-25 "23 now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification."
3. It assures us a Righteous Judgment...Romans 5:19 "19 for as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."
4. It guarantees that our bodies will be raised in the end...1 Corinthians 15:20 "20 but now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."