

SBC – April 9, 2023
Selected Scriptures
“Resurrection Answers”

Prayer:

The world has no answers! In rejection of God they turn to the darkness in rejection of the light. They are like a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there. They have no clue!

They don't know where they came from, why they are here, or where they are going. The world is in sad shape in terms of a meaningless existence that has no satisfying answers.

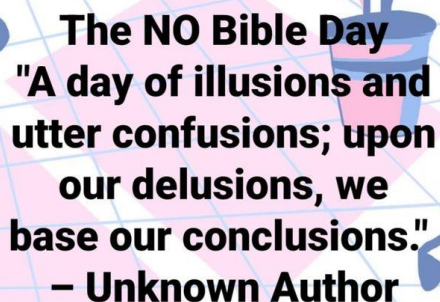
This week I read the testimony of a converted gay atheist by the name of Becket Cook. He was very successful in Hollywood and hob-knobbed with the rich and famous. But he says, “after 15 years of living this ‘fabulous’ life...I had this overwhelming feeling of emptiness.”

He says, “Six months later, I was with my best friend at a coffee shop. We noticed that sitting by a table next to us were some young people with their Bibles. We wondered: *What's going on?* We had never met Christians in L.A., especially with Bibles.”

Long story short they invited him to Church and he got saved. He now says, “I'm still in awe of God's grace. Over the years, I have lost many friends and even my career because of Jesus, but as the Apostle Paul says, ‘I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord’ (Philippians 3:8, ESV).” – Quoted in Decision Magazine, April 2023, p. 35

Becket found the answer in Jesus. However, the world rejects God's answer and lives in a “No Bible Day” without any satisfying answers.

Slide # 1



The NO Bible Day
"A day of illusions and
utter confusions; upon
our delusions, we
base our conclusions."
– Unknown Author

In contrast to the world, for the Christian, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ holds the answers to all of our most basic questions related to time and eternity.

The great question in life is all about LIFE and DEATH. How did we get here, why are we here, where are we going? What is life? Why do we die? What happens after death? The resurrection of Jesus addresses ALL of our most important questions.

Among all the religions of the world Christianity is totally unique in at least two specific ways. Number one: It alone is a faith based on GRACE! All the other religions of the world (without exception are works based in orientation) believing that self-effort and works are the means of getting to God or a better state beyond this life.

Slide # 2



In contrast to the world's religions, true Christianity says we are saved by grace through faith apart from any works that we do. I say true Christianity, because MOST of professing Christendom is actually false religion. Most of professing Christendom ties salvation to sacraments and rituals, thus holding to a form of works-salvation and nullifying what the Bible says about GRACE.

Grace is God reaching down to us in the person of Jesus Christ when we could not reach up to Him. Grace is God's favor – His undeserved, unmerited favor. Grace is the cross of Christ and Christ dying for undeserving sinners. We proclaim a gospel of grace!

Slide # 3

Romans 4:4–5 (NKJV)

4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

A justifying faith is a faith that does not depend on human works at all. Rather it depends upon Jesus ALONE. Jesus is everything to us! Saving faith looks to Jesus alone as Savior. It depends on His saving work on the cross alone as payment for all sin. And it believes in the risen Lord.

Here in Romans 4 Paul uses an illustration from the workplace contrasting works and grace (v. 4) and contrasting works and faith (v. 5).

Wages are earnings - what is due you.

When you collect your paycheck you are receiving what you have earned. It is not given to you as a GIFT (counted as grace) but rather as a debt (what is owed you because you earned it). You don't say to the boss please give me the GIFT I have earned. No this is owed you because you worked for it. The person working for salvation doesn't have it, because it is not by works but rather by grace -which is to say it is a gift.

In Romans 4:5 the word **But** is a contrast word. In contrast to the works and wages concept, which is contrary to GRACE (v. 4), is the reality of the justification of the ungodly who believe (v. 5).

To him who does not work renounces any possibility of earning righteousness or acquiring it by any personal merit or effort.

But believes on Him: The person who does not work but believes on Jesus is the one who is saved. Two things are in view: 1) does not work, 2) but believes on Him. They go together. To really BELIEVE means I am not working for righteousness. Only "him who does not work" truly "believes on Him". It's not TRYING but TRUSTING that saves.

Faith believes **On Him**. That is Faith has as its object the Lord Jesus Christ. It doesn't just believe "**about**" Him but rather "**on**" Him. This denotes a faith commitment that: rests upon – relies upon – depends upon Him. Saving faith is ON Him not just ABOUT Him (cf. Ja. 2:19).

The text says God **justifies the ungodly**. Let that sink in! The saved are not those who have made themselves righteous (which is impossible) but rather it is the "ungodly" who are justified when they come to believe.

This kicks out all concepts of a "works salvation". God justifies THE UNGODLY who come to believe. In fact, faith acknowledges I am a wicked, undeserving, guilty, godless sinner, who cannot save myself.

Therefore, saving faith believes on Him for righteousness. This is righteousness on the basis of grace through faith (cf. Eph. 2:8-9).

It is the person who has no faith in his own works – it is this person whose **faith is accounted for righteousness**. This person isn't working for salvation but rather as an ungodly sinner believes on Christ to save them.

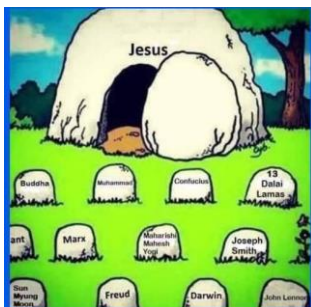
This idea of salvation by GRACE – that it is totally a gift to the ungodly who believe is totally foreign to all other religions and it is foreign to natural thinking (1 Cor. 2:14). Grace is all about the cross what Jesus did for us!

Slide # 4

- G. God's
- R. Riches
- A. at
- C. Christ's
- E. Expense

The other thing totally unique to Christianity is the truth of the Resurrection! No other religion in the world can boast of its founder coming back to life again.

Slide # 5



All other gods are false gods. There is only one true God and He is the living God. He is a God defined by LIFE.

In the Bible certain people were raised by God from the dead, but they all had to die again because none of them had a glorified body.

Jesus was the first to be resurrected in a glorified body that would never die again. That is why Christ is called “**the firstfruits**” of those who have died (1 Cor. 15:20). Firstfruits indicates there are more to come but that Christ was the first.

No one in the world has ever conquered death before or after Christ. Thus, the resurrection of Christ is totally unique. No other religion has anything like this.

And the thing that makes Christ's resurrection so compelling is that it is both **a prophetic** as well as **a historical reality**. It is prophetic in that 1000 years before it happened David prophesied it would happen in Psalm 16.

Slide # 6

Psalm 16:10 (NKJV)

10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, **Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**

The "***Holy One***" (the Messiah) would not see corruption. Before His body could decay it was resurrected on the third day in the fulfillment of the prophecy given 1000 years prior. No other religion in the world can claim fulfilled prophecy like this!

And not only was the resurrection of Christ a fulfillment of prophecy it is also a historical reality. It is not just some nebulous theory concocted by some mystic in a cave somewhere. No, this is historical reality that is unequivocally attested by historians.

If only they could have found the body of that Jew [Jesus] Christianity crumbles into ruins. – ***Historian Arnold Toynbee***

Slide # 7

It is important to recognize the number of ancient historians, who lived during the time of Christ and wrote of Him. Historian Gary Habermas details a total of thirty-nine ancient sources documenting the life of Christ. Some of these were Christian historians, but many of them were not. To put this into perspective, there are only nine ancient sources that mention Tiberius Caesar. Only nine. [And yet he ruled for 22 years ruling from AD 14-37.] – ***Richard E. Simmons III in Reflections on the Existence of God, p. 223***

It is historical realities like this that caused C.S. Lewis to say:

Slide # 8

A young atheist can't be too careful about what he reads and must steadfastly protect his ignorance. – **C.S. Lewis**

Slide # 9

I am a historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history. – **H.G. Wells**

I challenge you find any other religion in the world that is at once both prophetically true and historically true. There is NONE! The evidence for the truth of Jesus Christ is unparalleled in the history of religion. His entry into time, space, and history climaxed in His death and resurrection – all in fulfillment of prophecy written hundreds of years in advance and fulfilled in history!

The power of life and death is in the hand of the Lord.

Slide # 10

1 Samuel 2:6 (NKJV)

6 “The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.

Only God has the power of LIFE because He alone is the source of life. Throughout the Bible the one true God is called “**the living God**” (cf. Deut. 5:26; Josh. 3:10; 1 Sam. 17:26, 36; 2 Kg. 19:4, 16; Ps. 42:2; 84:2; Isa. 37:4; 37:17; Jer. 10:10; 23:36; Dan. 6:10; Hos. 1:10; Mt. 16:16; 26:63; Jn. 6:69; Acts 14:15; Rom. 9:26; 2 Cor. 3:3; 6:16; 1 Tim. 3:15; 4:10; 6:17; Heb. 3:12; 9:14; 10:31; 12:22; Rev. 7:2).

Slide # 11

Jeremiah 10:10 (NKJV)

10 But the LORD is the **true God**; He is the **living God** and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

1 Timothy 4:10 (NKJV)

10 For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the **living God**, who is the **Savior** of all men, especially of those who **believe**.

Who is the living God? He is the SAVIOR! Who is the Savior? He is the LIVING GOD!

When Jesus entered into history, He claimed to be LIFE which is to say the one true LIVING GOD. He said things like “*I am the bread of life*” which is to say, “*I am the stuff of life*” (Jn. 6:35-48); “*I am the resurrection and the life*” (Jn. 11:25); and “*I am the way, the truth, and the life*” (Jn. 14:6).

How does one prove they are the essence of life? Well, Jesus said the great proof of His claims would be that He would raise Himself from the dead. In John 2 when the Jews demanded a sign Jesus said, “***Destroy this temple [referring to His body], and in three days I will raise it up.***” (Jn. 2:19, 21).

Slide # 12

Matthew 12:38–40 (NKJV)

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”

39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the **sign of the prophet Jonah**.”

40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the **Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

The great SIGN that would validate all the claims of Christ would be the truth of the resurrection – the SIGN of LIFE and power over the grave.

Slide # 13

Romans 1:3–4 (NKJV)

3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

4 and **declared to be the Son of God with power** according to the Spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection** from the dead.

1) So the first great question relates to the issue of LIFE itself! What is the source of life – what is the essence of life? The resurrection answers this question! It shows us that LIFE is a person as found in Jesus! The resurrection declared Him to be the Son of God, meaning One Who is of the very nature and order of God – God of very God. It proves Him to be the One Who has power over death. It proves Him to be THE LIVING GOD!

Want to know the answer to life? Look no further than the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is life! He has the power of life. He is the source of life!

2) The second great question in life is this: **On what basis can I be right with the living God?** When my mother was dying she said to me, "I am ready to meet my Creator." Well, on what basis? The resurrection answers this!

You see the resurrection forever answers to the efficacy (the sufficiency, God's satisfactory acceptance) of Christ's sacrifice for sin on the cross.

Jesus never spoke of His death without also speaking of His resurrection. And He also plainly said **WHY** He was going to die.

Slide # 14

Mark 10:45 (NKJV)

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and **to give His life a ransom for many.**"

Matthew 26:28 (NKJV)

28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is **shed for many for the remission of sins.**

It is a historical reality and an irrefutable fact that Christ died. But how could it be proven that His death accomplished His stated purpose? The answer is that in the resurrection God confirmed that He was satisfied with Christ's payment for sin.

On the cross Jesus' last words were "***It is finished***" and God's AMEN to this was the resurrection. The resurrection is LIVING proof that Jesus did not die in vain. It proves that God accepted His cross-work as full payment for all sin. John the Baptist informed us WHY Jesus came into the world.

Slide # 15

John 1:29 (NKJV)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"

Okay, Jesus is the God provided sacrifice to take away sin, but how do we know it was accepted? Only by the resurrection! That's why Romans 4 says...

Slide # 16**Romans 4:24–25 (NKJV)**

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.**

The resurrection was proof that God accepted Christ's payment for sin and could thereby justify us (declare us righteous on the basis of faith).

Slide # 17**1 Corinthians 15:17–18 (NKJV)**

17 And if Christ is **not risen**, your faith is futile; you are **still in your sins!**

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

But Christ is risen and His resurrection is PROOF that He did not die in vain! Indeed, His death has accomplished its purpose of being a satisfactory payment for the sin of the world.

This is where the word "propitiation" comes in. It basically means "satisfaction" – the idea that God was satisfied with Christ's payment for sin.

Slide # 18**1 John 2:2 (NKJV)**

2 And **He Himself** is the **propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 John 4:10 (NKJV)

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent **His Son** to be the **propitiation for our sins.**

Jesus death on the cross before God was a satisfactory payment for sin and the way we know this is by way of the resurrection. Thus, the resurrection forever answers to how we are made right with God on the basis of Christ's dying for our sins.

Slide # 19

Christ died for our sins (Payment)

Christ rose again (Proof of Payment Accepted)

Belief (Appropriates it)

The gospel has two essential parts – the death of Christ and the resurrection of Christ. The death of Christ apart from the resurrection is NOT good news. A dead Savior is no Savior at all. Yes, His death was all important as payment for sin, but His resurrection triumphs over death and proves that the payment was sufficient.

Slide # 20

1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

2 by which also you are **saved**, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures,

4 and that **He was buried**, and that **He rose again** the third day according to the Scriptures,

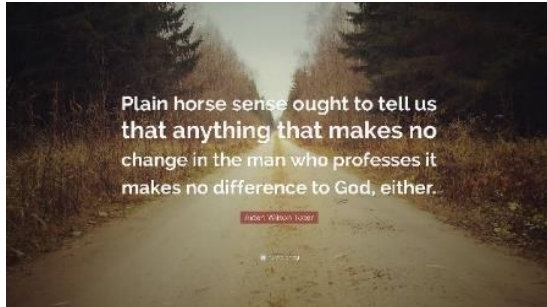
The resurrection forever affirms that believers are made right with God on the basis of the cross. It forever settles the great sin issues of our past, present and future. The cross has settled it all and the resurrection proves it. This is the great answer to the question: How can I know I am right with God?

The third great question in life is this: **What makes the life of a Christian different?** The people who do polls tell us that about 63% of Americans claim to be Christian. But when asked secondary questions about how it affects their life the number of what may be considered a legitimate profession of faith that really makes a difference in their life drops down to somewhere between 9 and 6 percent.

MOST professing Christians are not real Christians! Most professing Christians have never really been born again. Most professing Christians have never known the truth of becoming a new creation in Christ where “old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17). In salvation all the relationship of life CHANGE. Our relationship with God, our relationship with sin, the devil, the world, God’s people. All things have become NEW!

We have this scourge called “Easy Believism” that I am going to deal with during VBS in my work called “The Right Kind of Faith”.

Slide # 21



What makes the life of a Christian different is a living faith that results in the the risen Lord now living in them!

Slide # 22

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)

5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

The Bible teaches that in saving faith we now belong to Christ and are now in union with Him. The merit of His death is now applied to us. His resurrection life we now share in. His death was our death – His life is now our life. And that changes everything!

Let me ask you – does the risen Lord live in you? If you are a true believer the answer is yes and that reality has changed your life. This is the stuff of Romans 6 and Colossians 3. The justification of Romans 5 has resulted in the sanctifying process of Romans 6.

The death and resurrection of Christ fit together like hand in glove. The death of Christ emphasizes His freeing us from the penalty of sin, but the resurrection of Christ emphasizes being empowered to live free from the power of sin.

You see Christ as the risen Lord has freed us from the power of sin and Satan. The resurrection power of Christ now empowers us as believers to live free from the power of sin.

Slide # 23**Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)**

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by **faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The Christian faith is not only faith in Christ crucified, but also faith in Christ risen and living in me! This answers the question: **What makes the life of a Christian different?** It is the truth of the risen Christ now living in me! Now we are the temple of the living God (1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19). Col. 1:27 says, "Christ in you, the hope of glory".

As those who have come to believe in Jesus we now have a new Master. Sin is no longer our master. The devil is no longer our Master. We now belong to Christ.

Slide # 24**Romans 6:22 (NKJV)**

22 But now having been **set free from sin**, and having become **slaves of God**, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

That dual combination is a life changing reality – freed from sin – enslaved to God. Christ is our Savior and as our risen Lord He is our Master. If that is a reality in your life the expectation is that you will demonstrate a changed life.

Slide # 25**Romans 6:11–13 (NKJV)**

11 Likewise you also, **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin**, but **alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord**.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God **as being alive from the dead**, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

And then the question is what is our destiny beyond this life? For believers in Christ the resurrection answers in this way.

Slide # 26

Romans 8:11 (NKJV)

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.

The resurrection life of Christ speaks to our future. We now share in Christ's life spiritually, but we are also going to share in His resurrection life physically. One day our mortal bodies that are breaking down will share in His resurrection glory. We are going to get a resurrection body just like what Jesus has.

Slide # 27

1 Corinthians 15:42–43 (NKJV)

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is **raised in incorruption**.

43 It is sown in dishonor, it is **raised in glory**. It is sown in weakness, it is **raised in power**.

1 Corinthians 15:57 (NKJV)

57 But **thanks be to God**, who gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**.

We can't even begin to fully appreciate what the glory our resurrection bodies will be like. As believers we are right now the children of God. We are forgiven. We are righteous in the sight of God. But there is more to be seen.

Slide # 28

1 John 3:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be **called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, **now we are children of God**; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we **shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.

Right now we are in waiting mode. And what are we waiting for? We are waiting for Jesus to come and when He comes what is going to happen?

Slide # 29

Philippians 3:20–21 (NKJV)

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Thus, the resurrection is promise of a glorified body to all those in union with Christ. We too are going to share in resurrection glory.

And then the resurrection serves as a warning and call for repentance to the world. It answers the question: What does the future hold for the world?

Slide # 30

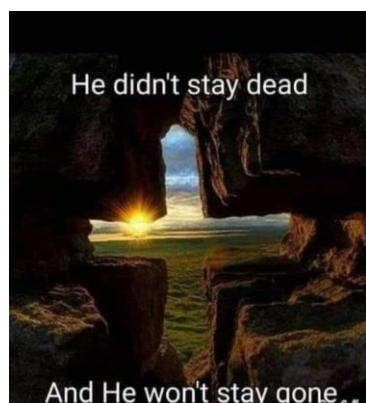
Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)

30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Just as sure as the resurrection took place, just as sure God is going to judge the world by Jesus Christ – the risen Lord.

Slide # 31



In the book of Acts, it is the resurrection that is constantly affirmed. This changed everything. The resurrection authenticates all the claims of Christ in terms of Who He is and proves that indeed He is the living God Who has the authority to Judge. The resurrection was God's affirmation of Jesus in all His claims including the fact that He is the JUDGE OF ALL.

Looking for proof of Christianity? Consider the truth of the resurrection. Looking for satisfying answers to life's most basic questions. Consider the truth of the resurrection.

Slide # 32

Resurrection Answers...

- 1) **PROVES** Jesus is LIFE and thus GOD!
- 2) **CONFIRMS** Christ's satisfactory payment for sin!
- 3) **EXPLAINS** the changed lives of Christ's followers!
- 4) **PROMISES** resurrection glory for all believers!
- 5) **WARNS** of coming judgment for the world!

God's answer to the great questions of life is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's all about Jesus! And in the end our eternal destiny all depends on what we do with the truth of Christ.

God has shown us the answer. It is plainly revealed in His Word and is affirmed by history. The Bible says the truth of God is manifest but that people "suppress" it (Rom. 1:18), they "resist" it (Acts 7:51).

But God now holds all people accountable for the truth of His Son Whom He raised from the dead.

Slide # 33

1 John 5:11–13 (ESV)

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

The life of Jesus was bracketed by two impossibilities – a virgin’s womb and an empty tomb. “Jesus entered our world through a door marked ‘No Entrance’ and left through a door marked ‘No Exit’” (Peter Larson)

These are God-things that only He could do. Only God specializes in the impossible. Resurrection life is a total God-thing!

Slide # 34

Revelation 1:17–18 (NKJV)

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Jesus’ resurrection proves He is God, proves He is life. God’s not dead! As the living God He has revealed Himself definitively in the resurrection of Jesus! And as the risen Lord, Jesus has the KEYS of Hades and death – that is power over the grave (death) and the seen spirit realm of the dead (that is Hades).

Checkmate is a word that comes from the Hebrew language that means “**Your King is dead!**” With the death of Christ Satan must have momentarily celebrated with “**Checkmate**”. Perhaps for the moment he thought he had won.

Angels must have watched in hushed silence as Jesus died a most horrendous death reserved for common criminals who were not Roman citizens. It appeared that darkness had triumphed over light. The disciples went into hiding. It seemed as though all was lost.

But Satan’s pronouncement of “**Checkmate**” was premature. The KING had one more move! On the third day He came back to life again and forever lives proving that indeed He is the living God Whom even Satan and death could not defeat.

Thus, the resurrection of Christ forever answers to Satan’s “Checkmate” and answers all of life’s most important questions.

The only question that remains is do you personally know the risen Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

Slide # 35**Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)**

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the **heart one believes** unto righteousness, and **with the mouth confession** is made unto salvation.

The testimony of God is clear! The evidence is irrefutable!

What say you? Who is Jesus to you? What is your confession?

John 5:24 says the one who believes “has passed from death into life”.

Have you crossed over? Have you believed on Jesus as your Savior and risen Lord?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (Acts 16:31).

Praise our living God for His living Word that tells us of our living Savior!

He ALONE is the answer to life’s ultimate questions.

Praise God for our living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:3).