

“He Is Not Here, for He Is Risen”
Matthew 28:1-10

Good Friday: “All who see me, mock me” (Ps. 22:7).

Today: Matthew’s account of the resurrection: “He is not Here, for He is Risen.”

The Resurrection: has always been central to Christian theology.

- Jn. 11:25, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.”
- Rom. 4:25, Christ was “delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”
- 1 Cor. 15:13-14, 17, “If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain ... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

28:6/ “He is not here, for He has risen, as He said.”

- Rom. 8:28, “All things are working together for your good...”
- Phil. 1:6, “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...”
- Heb. 13:5, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

28:10/ Why does Jesus mention his resurrection appearance in Galilee?

D. A. Carson, “The answer surely lies in the combination of two themes that have permeated the entire Gospel. First, the Messiah emerges from a despised area ... and first sheds his light on a despised people...; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit (5:3). For this reason, too, the risen Jesus first appears to women whose value as witnesses among Jews is worthless ... Second, ‘Galilee of the Gentiles’ (4:15) is compatible with the growing theme of Gentile mission in this Gospel ... and prepares for the Great Commission.”

The Stolen Body Theory

Tom Constable, “Their devised story was a weak one that a critic might easily discredit. If the guards had been asleep, they **could not** have known of the theft. If one of them was awake, why did he not sound an alarm? It was also incredible that the disciples who had abandoned Jesus out of fear would have summoned enough courage to risk opening the guarded tomb. Moreover, if the Sanhedrin had any evidence against the disciples, they surely would have prosecuted them, but they did not.”

Paschal Greeting: “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.” Yet, the mere knowledge of that good news will **not** save you...

1. You are a sinner. Rom. 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
2. The penalty for sin is death. Rom. 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death...”
3. Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world and rose again. Rom. 5:8, “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

4. The only way to be saved is to turn from your sins and place your faith in Christ alone.
Eph. 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.”

Christ is coming back to the earth where His people will receive resurrected bodies (1 Cor. 15), He will make all things new (Rev. 21:5), and He will judge the living and the dead (2 Tim. 4:1).