

The Death and Resurrection of Christ: why they matter and why you can believe them.

When something has been going on for many years, it is valid to ask, 'why are we still doing this?' So, is celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, just a tradition, that is increasingly outdated and we should move on? The answer is, 'no.'

Why Christ's Death Matters for You

The Bible gives many reasons why Christ's death matters, we will look at just two:

1. So you can sleep at night: not so you can have a good night's sleep, but so that your conscience might be clear. A guilty conscience can rob us of inner peace and rest, yet we all realize our guilt at times: guilt for what we have or have not done, for who we are really.

How can we respond to a guilty conscience? We can suppress it, and say that we are not really to blame. We can do 'penance', in the hope that our good can outweigh our bad. But neither of these really works. We feel guilty, because we are guilty, and that is why Christ's death still matters: he takes the guilt and punishment for us. He pays our debt, so we can find real inner rest and peace.

2. In a vast universe, you are loved.

We are all looking for a love that will see us as we really are, and still love us, and be committed to us. In addition, in this vast universe we can feel very small and insignificant; we question whether our lives have any meaning. That is why Christ's death still matters: it tells you that you are loved by God, even though he sees you as you really are. It tells you you are significant to the God who is vastly greater than the universe.

Why the Resurrection Matters for You:

The Bible gives multiple reasons why the resurrection of Jesus matters, we will look at just one.

How are we to know that the claims of Christianity are true? How are we to know the death of Christ does achieve what the bible says it does? How are we to know that Christ has God's endorsement above everyone and everything else that claims to represent him? The answer to that is the resurrection. Only God can raise the dead, and when he raised Jesus, it was God putting his stamp of approval on him.

So the resurrection matters because it tells you that Jesus is the One whom God has appointed, that Jesus has paid the price for you and me, and God has accepted it, and now the way to God through him is wide open.

Why you can Believe in the Resurrection

But can we still believe in the resurrection? Yes, for (at least) five reasons:

1. Because Jesus was dead and no one was expecting a resurrection.
2. There is no attempt by the gospel writers to describe the resurrection.
3. The problem of the women.
4. The doubts.
5. The cost.

So, Jesus' death and resurrection matter because they tell you that your sin and guilt have been washed away and you are loved by God beyond measure, and so neither death nor life need have any fear for you, instead you can build your life on this truth.