

Gospel Shaped Living – Resurrection Reality

1 Peter 2:9-12

A week has gone by since Easter Sunday & the grave is still empty! Actually it's been over 2000 years since resurrection Sunday and... it's still empty!

This historical fact means everything for us as followers of Jesus Christ!

If the grave is not empty, then our faith is empty! But if the stone is still rolled away & Jesus is still alive, our lives are filled with resurrection reality!

What is resurrection reality and how is it applied to our lives today?

1 Peter 2:9-12 is one of the best passages of Scripture that speaks to this!

But remember who it is that is writing this letter – it's Peter! If anyone had his hopes & dreams shattered on Good Friday & then restored on Easter, it's him.

Peter's journey – Called to be a disciple, a witness to the healing of his wife's mother, walks on water, confesses Jesus to be the Christ, rebukes Jesus but gets rebuked, refuses to let Jesus wash his feet, the transfiguration, prays with Jesus in Gethsemane, cuts off the ear of Malchus, denies Jesus 3x, the death of Jesus.

For Peter, if the grave is not empty, then everything he experienced, everything he believed about Jesus, was all for nothing! The same is true for us today!

But... if the grave is empty, 1 Peter 2:9-12 is our resurrection reality as well!

1) We are a chosen race!

Not of nationality or ethnicity, but a race of people called out by God to be the recipients of saving faith! Not earned, but received by grace alone!

2) We are a royal priesthood!

No longer do we need an intermediary, a priest! We can come before God as we are b/c of what Jesus has done in our place, on our behalf!

3) We are a people of God's own possession!

We've been bought at a price, by the blood of Jesus. We belong to Him.

4) We are a people of light, coming out of the darkness!

Once we were blinded by our sin, but now we can see & be cleansed!

5) Our name has been changed from "Lo-ammi" to "God's people"!

We have a place in the family of God. We are sons/daughters of God!

6) Our identity of "Lo-ruhamah" has been changed to "those who have received mercy!"

We deserve the very wrath of God, but instead He has shown us mercy!

7) We are sojourners & exiles in this world! We have a different home!

The lives we live today are only temporary – we are simply passing thru!

Would you say that your life is defined by these resurrection realities?

- Has there been a change in your identity (a chosen race)?
- Has there been a change in your proximity to God (royal priesthood)?
- Has there been a change of ownership (God's own possession)?
- Has there been a change in your visibility (from darkness to light)?
- Has there been a change in your allegiance (the people of God)?
- Has there been a change in your possessions (received mercy)?
- Has there been a change in your address (only sojourners & exiles here)?

All this resurrection reality is ours, by faith in Jesus! But for what purpose?

1 Peter 2:9 - that we may "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Gospel shaped living starts with a gospel shaped testimony of resurrection in our own lives! If we have experienced it, we must share it!

Gospel shaped living also includes living a transformed life in response to these resurrection realities. We are to be a living testimony! Why? - Vs. 12

So that the Gentiles (non-believer's) "may see our good deeds & glorify God on the day of visitation." That others may receive & experience resurrection as well!

Jesus' resurrection should be more than just a picture of our future resurrection, it should be a picture of the lives we live out every day!

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