

**HIS  
RESURRECTION**

# **The Resurrection: Past, Future and Present, NOW**

- 1. Most of believing Christianity has embraced a theological system that says there is only one program revealed in the Bible, and that is God's plan for man's redemption.**
  - God has always dealt with the saints in the same way from Adam until the end.
  - There is only one Purpose of God—man's redemption
  - There is only one People of God--Israel
  - There is one Gospel—the Good News of the Death and Resurrection of Christ.
  - Warfield put it this way: The Holy Spirit performed all the same functions in the Old Testament as He does today in the church.
- 2. This fundamental assumption causes them many problems, not the least being the Death and Resurrection of Christ.**
- 3. They try to make the Death of Christ fit into their system by saying something like: The Old Testament saints were saved by looking forward to the Death of Christ while we look backward to it. This sounds good but ...**
  - There is not one Bible passage that says such a thing and many that say otherwise.  
(Mat. 16:21-23; Mk. 9:9-10; Jn. 20:8-9, 30; Acts 2:22-36)

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## **4. They have an even harder time fitting the Resurrection into their theological system.**

--**There is no place in a system that is founded on God's unchanging ways of dealing with men for a once-in-history, unique, cataclysmic event that changed everything! The Resurrection!**

## **5. Such theological systems talk about the value of Christ's Resurrection in the past, and of its value in the future, but they say little about its value today, NOW, in the present.**

**a. In the past: Christ's Resurrection proves the efficacy of Christ's work on the Cross that completely dealt with the sin/sinner issue in a way that met all the demands of an infinitely Holy, Just and Righteous God.**

**b. In the future: Christ's past Resurrection serves as the "first-fruits" that guarantees the believer's resurrection from the dead.**

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- 6. We would whole-heartedly agree with this, but what about its importance for believers today, NOW, in the present?**
- 7. Through the Power of His Resurrection, God began a new program through the Risen Christ: The Mystery Program.**
  - a. Christ's Resurrection would bring Israel's Prophetic Program to its end in fulfillment of all the promises God had spoken through the prophets since the world began (Acts.3) on the one hand.**
  - b. And on the other hand it brought into existence a new Program, the new Mystery Program, through the distinct and unique Apostleship of Paul that had been kept secret since the world began (Rom. 1:1-7; 16:25; Eph. 3).**

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- 8. Through the Power of His Resurrection, God raised up Paul and gave him by a direct revelation of the Dispensation of Grace, through which God is now dispensing the Riches of His Grace and Goodness and Glory (Eph. 3:1-11 with 1:7, 18; 2:7; 3:8, 16).**
- 9. This Mystery Program had been kept secret since the world began (Rom. 16:25)—it was not made known unto men in other ages (Eph. 3:5); it is unsearchable (in the Scriptures before Paul) (3:8); and from the beginning of the world (creation) it had been hid IN GOD (not the Old Testament) (Eph. 3:9).**
- 10. Through the Power of His Resurrection, God created a new People who would carry out this new Mystery Program:**
  - a. Whereas God will fulfill His Prophetic Program with the Nation of Israel,**
  - b. He will fulfill His Mystery Program with the Church, Body of Christ (Eph. 3:6 with 1:22-23l 2:16; 4:4, 12, 16; 5:23, 30, and this is just in Ephesians.**
  - c. The Body of Christ is NOT Israel--not “new” Israel, “spiritual” Israel or any such thing.**

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- 11. Through the Power of His Resurrection, God began this new and unique Mystery Program and created this new and unique Body of Christ for a new and unique Purpose:**
  - a. Whereas God's Prophetic Program was designed to re-establish His Glory on EARTH through the Nation of Israel...**
  - b. His Mystery Program was designed to re-establish His Glory in the HEAVENLIES through the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:3; 3:10, 16; with 1:18-23; 2:6-7).**
- 12. The Power of His Resurrection is what energizes this new Purpose, Program and People.**
  - a. It is based on Resurrection Ground and is lived by Resurrection Power (Eph. 1:16-23; 2:4-7; Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3-10; Gal. 2:20-21).**
  - b. This is something Old Testament saints did not have.**
- 13. Phil. 3:7-21: The Pattern of Paul following the Pattern of Christ.**