BACK TO LIFE? **AND WHY THIS**

EXPOSITTHEWORD Based on the thoughts of J.C. Ryle

MATTERS TO YOU?

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the great foundation stone of the Christian faith.

This is what is celebrated at Easter.

On Good Friday, Christ's body lay dead in the tomb. Three days later His body was gone.

Who had removed it? Surely not the enemies of Christ! If they had taken His body, they would have gladly shown it off to disprove His resurrection.

It can't have been the followers of Christ either! They were far too frightened to attempt such an act, plus they had nothing to gain by it.

The true explanation is that Christ, after being killed on the cross three days earlier, had risen from the dead and was seen alive in His resurrected body by many credible witnesses.

The historical evidence all bears out that Jesus came back to life

His resurrection proves emphatically that Jesus is the Son of God. This isn't the sort of information we can just shrug our shoulders at and carry on.

So why did Jesus die?

Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty of sin for those who put their faith in Him. His resurrection indicates the payment He made has been accepted. The work of Christ has been perfectly accomplished upon the cross as He received the penalty of the sin of those who trust in Him.

This is what gives the Christian a great hope – a hope that is based on the fact that a believer's sin has been forgiven, and that a great eternal future awaits those who believe, follow and love the Lord.

Jesus is alive today with His Father in heaven, waiting for the appointed time when He will return again to judge the world.

If Jesus died and rose again, how does this impact each of us today?

Each of us needs to turn from our sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. If you do, you will be forgiven and warmly received into the love of God! This is what God (through the Bible) urges you and me to do, and it is Good News—Good News we each must urgently act on!

Each of us needs to be born again by the Holy Spirit given a whole new life of following and trusting in Jesus. This is the only way you can be reconciled to God and ultimately taken up to the joy and glory of heaven.

Time is short—none of us knows how long we have till we stand before God's judgment throne. Will you come to Jesus for the forgiveness and reconciliation with God that you urgently need?

*Some of this text has been taken from Expository Thoughts by J.C. Ryle on Luke, Vol. 2, in the public domain.

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