

Because He Lives!
John 14:15-21

Intro.

I. Does the resurrection of Jesus Christ have anything to do with your life today?
Do you see a connection between His resurrection and your life or not?

- A. John writes these words from Jesus, “because I live, ye shall live also.”
- B. Jesus made a connection between His resurrection and our life.

II. The resurrection principle must be felt in the daily routines of our life. This principle focuses on:

- 1. Life. Spiritual and eternal.
- 2. Hope.
- 3. Optimism.
- 4. Joy.
- 5. Faith.

Dis.

I. BACKGROUND TO THE SONG: BECAUSE HE LIVES.

A. This song was written by Bill and Gloria Gaither. Together, they have written more than four hundred songs. Among them: *He Touched Me; Something Beautiful, Let’s Just Praise the Lord, The King is Coming, There’s Something About That Name, and I Am Loved.*

B. Bill Gaither wrote *Because He Lives* at the end of the 1960’s when our country was going through some difficult times. The height of the drug culture, the peak of the Vietnam War, the “God is Dead” theory was running wild. Bill and Gloria were expecting a child—a son, Benjy—and they were thinking that this is a poor time to be bringing a child into the world. He wrote, “How sweet to hold our new-born baby and feel the pride and joy he gives, but better still the calm assurance that this child can face uncertain days because Christ lives.” “Because Christ lives, we can face tomorrow...” The song was written to overcome discouragement.

II. DISCOURAGEMENT.

A. Discouragement is a tool of the devil. When the enemy seems to be everywhere and prevailing, the saints of God get discouraged. When our own members allow Satan to use them as tools for discouragement, the situation worsens. Failure to be what God desires is a source of discouragement to yourself and others.

1. Remember Elijah. After his great victory over the false prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel, he slips into a depression and discouragement. He fears for his life and he flees. But, God finds him and strengthens him and comforts him and commissions him to go on with his prophetic work. (I Kings 19)

B. We must not faint in midst of the spiritual warfare that surrounds us!

- 1. Look around. Heb. 12:1-2.
- 2. Look Within. Heb. 12:2
- 3. Look up. Heb. 12:1-2.
- 4. Do not faint. Heb. 12:3.

III. THE RESURRECTION PRINCIPLE HELPS TO OVERCOME DISCOURAGEMENT.

A. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is a central feature of Christianity. It was a one-time historical event with tremendous effects.

B. The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that God is the source of all life and that he can impart life and restore life. This means that we do not need to fear:

1. Sin. Sin brings death. Rom. 6:23. Christ has the antidote for both. Through His death, we can have forgiveness of our sins and new spiritual life in Christ. Also, the last enemy, death will be destroyed by the LORD when He comes again. I Cor. 15:23. Jesus is the firstfruits. If we die, we will live again! Death will be swallowed up in victory.! The two greatest things that men dread: sin and death, have been conquered by Jesus. This takes away all fear and gives us great assurance and confidence. We are undefeatable in Christ.

C. The resurrection gives hope. The future is bright as long as we belong to the Lord. We must be in Him and live for Him in order to have this hope. Hope is confident expectation of good things to come. Look to the future. What do you see? Doom and despair? Or, the wonder and beauty of the Lord. Our outlook is shaped by the resurrection of Jesus. Our future is with God.

D. Optimism. The resurrection of Jesus gives us optimism. The foundation for our success is in Christ. He has already secured the way. Do not doubt. Do not faint. Only believe.

E. Joy. The resurrection of Jesus intensifies joy. Good times can even be better with the assurance that we belong to Christ. His power and might secure our victory.

F. Faith. If Christ, then me! We are afraid to grow old and die. Why? Faith in the resurrection of Jesus means that death cannot defeat us. He has defeated death and He is the firstfruits! We will also be resurrected. Resurrected to eternal life with God. This is not an unpleasant end.

Conclusion.

Read: *Because He Lives.*