

What Difference Does it Make?
That Jesus Rose From the Dead

What Difference Does it Make?
That Jesus Rose from the Dead

- ▶ High School Student – Friends, Values, Habits
 - What kind of person are you becoming?
- ▶ University Student – Career and Marriage
 - What are you going to give your life to?
- ▶ Young Parent – Work and Family
 - Who sets the agenda for life?
- ▶ Work and Church – Seems No Connection
 - Do the mundane and ordinary matter?
- ▶ Getting Older – Everything Changing
 - What change is good?

What Difference Does it Make –
That Jesus Rose from the Dead?

The Usual Answer

- ▶ Heaven After You Die

And As An Afterthought ...

- ▶ Tips for a Happy Life Now

The Disconnect

- ▶ Jesus Life and Teaching
- ▶ Jesus Death and Resurrection

The Problem

- ▶ Jesus' Death and Resurrection a 'Legal' Matter
- ▶ This 'Matter' is about Life after This Life
- ▶ Therefore This Life is Unimportant
- ▶ Therefore Instruction for this Life Unimportant

The Bible –
Resurrection Affects NOW

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.
1 Co 15:58

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.
Rom 8:11

The Connect

Article from NT Wright

Two Ideas that Connect
Life & Teaching – Death & Resurrection

- ▶ The New Creation
- ▶ The Kingdom of God

The New Creation

- ▶ Story of the Bible
 - Creation – Fall – New Creation
- ▶ This World Not Abandoned
 - Restored, Repaired, Recreated
 - This World Will Be Our Home Forever
 - What We Do Now Matters
- ▶ The New Creation Began at Easter
 - It Has Started
- ▶ Christian Living
 - Experience New Creation
- ▶ Christian Service
 - Partner in God's New Creation Agenda

The Kingdom of God

- ▶ Jesus Announced the Arrival of the Long Promised Kingdom
- ▶ The Resurrection is the Fulfillment of this Announcement
- ▶ Jesus is the World's Rightful King
- ▶ Present and Future
 - Begun Already
 - Culminates Later

What Difference Does it Make?

Three Key Concepts

- ▶ Participate
 - It Has Started
- ▶ Anticipate
 - Experience Ahead of Time – Not Complete, but Real
- ▶ Partner
 - Not Passive Receivers
 - Not Our Agenda

The Life of Jesus

- ▶ God's Good Future Breaking In
- ▶ Forces of Evil Pushed Back
- ▶ World Responding to Rightful King

The Teaching of Jesus

- ▶ Repeated Themes in Jesus' Teaching
- ▶ Same Themes in Apostles
- ▶ Instructions for people living where we are
 - We are Participants in God's Present Kingdom
 - We taste the Good Future
 - We live in the Present Darkness
 - We are called to Partner with God in His Agenda
- ▶ New Kingdom – Unlearning and Relearning

The Way of Jesus

- ▶ Anger
- ▶ Forgiveness
- ▶ Worry
- ▶ Love
- ▶ Greatness
- ▶ Money
- ▶ Desires
- ▶ Words

What Difference Does it Make?

Three Key Concepts

- ▶ Participate
 - It Has Started
- ▶ Anticipate
 - Experience Ahead of Time - Not Complete, but Real
- ▶ Partner
 - Not Passive Receivers
 - Not Our Agenda

What Difference Does it Make?

That Jesus Rose from the Dead

- ▶ What kind of person are you becoming?
- ▶ What are you going to give your life to?
- ▶ Who sets the agenda for life?
- ▶ Do the mundane and ordinary matter?
- ▶ What change is good?