

# THE RESURRECTION

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very foundation of our faith.

## THE RESURRECTION FULFILLS GOD'S PLAN...

- Humanity was created *to share God's love*.
- Adam, however, put *his own will above God's*. Because of *his sinful pride* he attempted to live *apart* from the Source of Life.
- As a result, *death came into the world*, thereby alienating mankind from God and altering God's plan for creation.

## ...AND BRINGS ABOUT A NEW CREATION.

- Jesus Christ is **the New Adam**. Where the old Adam had placed his own will above God's, the New Adam *freely accepts God's will*.
- Jesus saves *all* in creation that is worth saving. All of creation is *transformed and renewed* by the resurrection.

## HUMANITY IS REUNITED WITH GOD...

- Jesus Christ came into the world *to reconcile humanity — and all creation — with its Creator*.
- By His death, *Jesus destroyed death*; by His resurrection from the dead, He grants *forgiveness and eternal life* to all who *repent and desire* God's gifts of love, life and salvation.
- Death no longer *separates* man from God. While we still experience death, *it no longer is a barrier to eternal union with God*.

## ...MAKING OUR OWN RESURRECTION POSSIBLE.

- We "*believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come*."
- *Jesus Christ will come again in glory* to raise all humanity from the dead and to grant us eternal life in His Kingdom.

On the first day of the week at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel...and said to them, "Why do you seek the Living among the dead? Remember how He told you...that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise."

—Luke 24:1-7



## ADAM REJOICES! EVE IS SET FREE!

The icon of the resurrection *never* depicts Jesus emerging from the tomb. Instead, the icon shows **Christ's descent into Hades** prior to His bodily resurrection.

- Jesus **crushes the gates of Hades**.
- As the New Adam, **He raises to new life the righteous** who had gone before Him literally pulling Adam and Eve from their tombs.
- Jesus Christ **unites heaven and earth in Himself**, bringing about a **new creation** by saving the parents of the old.

*If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.*

—I Corinthians 15:14