The Importance of the Resurrection

I. Some 2000 years ago one of the greatest events of all time took place.
   1. We don’t know the exact date.
   2. We don’t know the exact location.
   3. But we do have a written record of this event and we do know the result of it.

II. This event changed the course of history for mankind for all time.
   1. It provided man with something that he never had before.
   2. It gave man something he never had before.
   3. It changed the way man would view his life and his future.

III. The event I am speaking of is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

IV. The importance of the resurrection is of such a magnitude that our response to it has eternal consequences, John 11:25,26

V. Our response to the resurrection of Jesus is a life and death decision, and we must be sure that we understand the importance of this event so that we might act accordingly.

Trans: With this in mind lets consider our first point concerning the resurrection of Jesus.

1. The resurrection proves Jesus to be who He claimed.
   A. Jesus made some bold claims about himself while he was alive.
      1. He claimed to be the son of God, John 10:36
      2. He claimed the be the only way to the Father, John 14:6
      3. He claimed to be the source of eternal life, John 10:26-28
      4. He also claimed that if her were killed he would be resurrected, John 2:19,21

   B. If just one of these claims is found to be a lie then Jesus himself is found to be liar, Deut. 18:22.

   C. But what it all hinges on is the claim of the resurrection, because this supports all the others,
      1. You might be able to discount His claims.
      2. You might even discount the miracles as an elaborate hoax.
      3. But there is no way to get around his death, and subsequent resurrection.
         a. The evidence that Jesus lived is overwhelming and undeniable. No first century historian denies that he lived.
         b. The evidence that Jesus was crucified is just as overwhelming. The fact of the death of Jesus is well attested to by both secular and sacred writers. No person of the time disputed the reported crucifixion.
c. The body of Jesus was buried. Information about the burial was given by friends of Jesus as they wrote his biography. Again, this was not disputed.

d. The final step to the life and death of Jesus is the resurrection. On the morning of the third day the body was missing.
   (1) The friends of Jesus said that he rose from the dead.
   (2) The enemies of Jesus said the body was stolen.
      (a) The witnesses of the theft of the body were the Roman soldiers on guard at the tomb where the body was placed after the crucifixion.
      (b) The soldiers claim to have been asleep when the body was stolen.
      (c) If true, how could they have known what happened to the body?
   (3) The resurrection of Jesus was then corroborated to by a multitude of witnesses, 1Cor. 15:3-9

D. It’s this resurrection that put the final stamp of truth on all of His claims, Rom. 1:1-4

Illust: A mother and her daughter were on one of the Holy Land tours and they were taken to the supposed tomb of Jesus. As the daughter looked into the tomb she turned to her mother and said, “It’s empty,” to which her mother responded, “Now that’s exactly the point isn’t it.”

Appl: Friends, when the claim that Jesus made about being resurrected came true all of his other claims were found to be true.

Because the claims Jesus made are true, “The importance of the resurrection is of such a magnitude that our response to it has eternal consequences.”

Consider this...
   1. Jesus claimed to be the son of God, the resurrection proved He is.
   2. Jesus claimed the be the only way to the Father, the resurrection proved He is.
   3. Jesus claimed to be the source of eternal life, the resurrection proved He is.

Trans: Let’s consider our second point concerning the resurrection of Jesus

2. The resurrection proves we have hope.
   A. Consider Peters words in 1Peter 3:15

   B. How do we support that fact that we have the hope we have?

   C. It’s found in the resurrection of Jesus.
D. Without the resurrection life is a futile existence, 1Cor. 15:32.

E. But because we know the resurrection to be true, we can prove we have hope in the life we live, 1Cor. 15:13-19

F. I stated at the beginning of this lesson that the resurrection of Jesus changed the history of mankind for all time. I then listed the ways it changed man's history

1. It provided man with something that he never had before, John 6:40
2. It gave man something he never had before, 1Pet. 1:3
3. It changed the way man would view his life and his future, Phil. 3:7-14

Appl: There are some things that happen in our lives which cause us to change something we are doing; but what is there that is so overpowering that it would lead millions to change their entire life?

It is the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1. Without question we know that Jesus was raised from the dead.
2. Knowing the fact of his resurrection supports the rest of His claims. This gives us reason for hope.

Remember the claims,

1. He claimed the be the only way to the Father.
2. He claimed to be the source of eternal life.

Without question these claims are true, and so we have the greatest hope of all time. A hope so powerful it will lead us to change our lives completely.

Friends, the importance of the resurrection is of such a magnitude that our response to it has eternal consequences, and this is seen in the hope we have because of the resurrection.

Con: So, what is your response to the resurrection? What will you do with the claims of Jesus?

We can either respond to the resurrection of Jesus by being obedient to His will and inherit eternal life; or we can reject the resurrection and be lost eternally.

What is your response? Make the decision today. Remember, your response to the resurrection of Jesus is a life and death decision, and you must be sure that we understand the importance of this event so that you might act accordingly.