

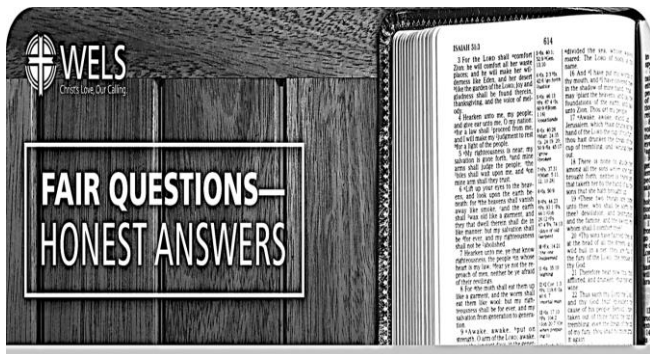


NEWSLETTER

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Why is Jesus' resurrection from the dead significant for me?

"I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day" (John 11:24).



It was refreshing, though the situation certainly wasn't. Sandy's mom had spent a wonderful, joy-filled day with her and her ten-month-old daughter. But it took just one moment. What started as a minor health scare quickly escalated, resulting in an emergency trip to the hospital. Less than two days later, Sandy's mother went home to heaven.

They weren't ready to lose her. If they could have their way, she'd still be here. So what was so refreshing? "We ask that God's will be done." "I'm glad she is in Jesus' arms." Throughout the entire tragedy, that's what Sandy wrote.

How could she be so upbeat? In the midst of mourning, she was a modern-day Martha. Martha, fighting through tears for her brother Lazarus, freshly laid in the grave, boldly proclaimed to Jesus, "*I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day*" (John 11:24).

How could she be so confident? How can I be so confident? As a result of Adam and Eve's first

sin, death was introduced into the world. As a result of sin, I've lost loved ones. As a result of sin, I myself will lose my life one day. And as a result of my sin, God tells me there's only one place where I deserve to go, hell.

How can I be so confident? Because I have a loving Savior. Where I struggle and fail each day to love and obey God, Jesus didn't ever fail. Even when loving God meant dying for me, Jesus obeyed. His love for me took him to the cross. His love has taken away all the guilt of my sins.

How can I be so confident? Because I have a living Savior. Jesus died, but he's not dead. His resurrection is more than just an occasion to commemorate once a year on Easter. It's the proof that Jesus not only forgave my sins and conquered hell, it's also the promise that because he lives, I also will live. When I die, in his loving and living arms, I will live!

Jesus' resurrection gives me confidence. It makes me confident to say, "I know that my Redeemer lives." I am refreshed in every joy and every sorrow because I know that my Redeemer lives. And when at last my earthly journey is done, I will wake to live forever with my Savior because my Redeemer lives.

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