

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4 April 2021

Easter Sunday Combined Worship Service

"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

E-mail: maranatha.bpc@pacific.net.sg

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.30 pm

**Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415);
Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045); Elder Royce Yeo (HP : 9362 3067)**

WHY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST MATTERS TO YOU?

Christianity is unique. Unlike other religions, it is based on historical facts – Jesus' birth, life, death and especially his resurrection. According to Paul who met Jesus on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians, said, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4). The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ are according to the Holy Scriptures. In other words, these events are predicted way before Jesus came to the world.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is significant to the Christian Faith. Paul said if Christ has not risen, our faith is empty and worthless. We are still in our sins. We are still hopeless. We are the most miserable people on earth (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).

I have come across many people who said that believing in a risen Christ is nothing more than a blind leap of faith with no basis in truth. However, when they are confronted with the facts of the resurrection, those who are intellectually honest have been forced to admit that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is an historical event based on irrefutable proofs (Acts 1:1-3).

A student at the University of Uruguay once asked Josh McDowell, "Why can't you refute Christianity?" His answer was very simple – "For a very simple reason: I am not able to explain away an event in history – the Resurrection of Jesus."

Evidences for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

1. Jesus predicted his own resurrection. He told his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised the third day

(Matthew 16:21).

2. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times. He appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary who came to the tomb (Matthew 28:1). He appeared to two of his disciples traveling on the road to Emmaus and ate with them (Luke 24:13-35). He appeared to his disciples by the sea (John 21; 1 Corinthians 15:5). He appeared to more than 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6).
3. The unrelenting faith of the disciples. They were once afraid and hid themselves (John 20:19) but having seen Jesus, felt him and eaten with him, they became courageous to preach the resurrected Jesus boldly, risking their lives for it (Acts 2:14; 3:12; 4:8; 5:29).
4. The growth of the Church confirms the resurrection. Peter's first sermon cut the hearts of the people. Luke tells us about 3000 souls believed and baptized in the Lord (Acts 2:14-47). Since then, the church has been growing and its people has been spreading the Good News around the world (Matthew 28:19, 20).
5. The Testimony of Christians. The testimony of millions of Christians through the centuries testifies the power of the resurrection. Paul said the Gospel "...is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). Lives have been changed and transformed. Broken marriages have been restored. The hopeless have found hope. All this is happening because the resurrected power of God is operating within us.

Significance of the Resurrection

Jesus claimed to be God (John 10:30). His resurrection from the dead confirms it.

1. The resurrection proves Jesus is God. Dying on the cross does not prove in itself Jesus is God. He proved it by rising from the grave. Paul said, "...and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4).
2. The resurrection shows Jesus' power over death. Paul said, "...knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him" (Romans 6:9). The resurrection secured our victory over death. Therefore, you and I can look forward for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).
3. The resurrection defeats Satan. Because of his death and resurrection, Jesus destroyed Satan who had the power of death (Hebrews 2:14). By rising from the grave, he proved that he has the power over death. Paul said, "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55, 57)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our Christian Faith. Without it, Christianity is worthless and hopeless. As Paul put it, you and I will be the most miserable people on earth. But we are a people of hope – eternal hope. We have a glorious hope. Our hope is found in Paul's words to the Thessalonian Christians:

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that

we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Brethren, do you have this glorious hope? Amen.

Pastor Colin Wong

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Transfer of Membership

Dear Pastor and Elders of Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church. I am Wu Jing Ming and would love to transfer my membership to Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church as I follow God’s leading. Previously, I worshipped in the Chinese service in New Life BPC and I also attended Grace BPC too.



The name “Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church” is not unfamiliar to me. You may ask why I am in Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church. This is all God’s leading. It is my heart’s desire to be a Preacher. The congregation in Maranatha is small and thus, being financially tight to invite external speakers. I know sister Lifang and I met Pastor Colin Wong some time ago but he did not seem to recognise me. I heard that he was looking for people to serve in Church. Sister Li Fang added that Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian church needed people to serve in the Chinese ministry. I requested for her to pray for me and God helped me to see how the Chinese ministry was in need of more people to serve. Thus, I am here to serve God in the Chinese ministry and this is my heart’s sincere desire.

William Wu

Theme for the Quarter :
FREE IN CHRIST
(An Exposition on the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians)

**Rev Colin Wong speaking at the Easter Sunday Combined Service on
Jesus, The Resurrection of Life (John 11:25, 26).
Interpreter : Elder Royce Yeo.**