

## Jesus – Alive and Well on Planet Earth (2)

Would it be true to say...

Jesus is alive and well in our generation?

Jesus is alive and well throughout our community?

Jesus is alive and well in my life?

Jesus is alive and well in the church?

Is this your conviction? Is this your experience?

What is God saying by raising his beloved Son from the grave?

Have we fully comprehended its power and impact?

What does Jesus' empty tomb really mean for us?

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### Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish

**John 21:1** <sup>3</sup> *'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

<sup>4</sup> *Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.*

<sup>5</sup> *He called out to them, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?'*

*'No,' they answered.*

<sup>6</sup> *He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.*

<sup>7</sup> *Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, **'It's the Lord!'** Simon Peter wrapped his outer garment round him and jumped into the water. <sup>8</sup> *The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish... <sup>9</sup> *When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.***

<sup>10</sup> *Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.'* <sup>11</sup> *...and 'Come and have some breakfast.'* **None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord.**

So, do as Jesus bids you, listen out for his advice in the everyday things of life, and you'll find yourself in circumstances where **you know it's the Lord**

### Jesus reinstates Peter

**15** *When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, **do you love me** more than these?'*

*'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.'*

*Jesus said, '**Feed my lambs.**'*

**16** *Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, **do you love me?'***

*He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.'*

*Jesus said, '**Take care of my sheep.**'*

**17** *The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, **do you love me?'***

*Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.'*

*Jesus said, '**Feed my sheep...** Then he said to him, '**Follow me!**'*

So according to Jesus, what is the prime motivation for doing what He asks of us?

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Around the time of His ascension

**Acts 1: 3** *After his suffering, Jesus presented himself to his disciples and gave **many convincing proofs** that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptised with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptised with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit.'*

**8** *But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'*

## The Great Commission

Matthew 28: <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Acts 1:<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

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**So Jesus was saying, the fact that He was alive and well was to have enormous impact on the Church**

The book of Acts shows how the disciples were **witnesses of the fact that He was alive and well** and how they preached it powerfully to the world.

Acts 4:33 "And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all" (see also 1:21–22; 2:29–32; 4:1–2).

The resurrection of Jesus was also at the core of the apostle Paul's teachings e.g.in Athens.

Acts 17:<sup>18</sup>

...He has given proof of all of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.'

1 Corinthians 15 is probably one of the most famous passages in Scripture and begins with Paul's assertion of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance<sup>[a]</sup>: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to

Cephas,<sup>[b]</sup> and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

**The essential beliefs of the Church have their foundation in the fact that Jesus is alive and well.**

**1. The fact that Jesus is alive and well proves He was exactly who and what He said He was.**

The disciples saw the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead, as God's seal of approval—God's backing of everything Jesus said.

**2. The fact that Jesus is alive and well underlines the importance of Jesus' teachings.**

By the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead, we can be sure what He said is true and is a key foundation for everything we believe

*Ephesians 2:20 ...but we're fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

We can confidently use Jesus' words as the standard, the benchmark of all truth.

**3. The fact that Jesus is alive and well shows that the work of salvation is accomplished.**

The price (for our fallen, broken and wounded world) has been fully met and paid in full.

God has accepted Christ's sacrifice and its fully adequate to restore and reconcile all things to God's initial intention for the whole of creation.

**4. The fact that Jesus is alive and well guarantees that God will also raise us from the dead to immortal life.**

**Rom 8:**<sup>10</sup> *But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life<sup>[d]</sup> because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> 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 because of<sup>[e]</sup> his **Spirit** who lives in you.*

Because Jesus both died and rose again, we will be raised like Him.

1 Cor 15:20 *“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”*

The word *firstfruits* speaks of a sampling, a foretaste, a glimpse. So if Jesus is the firstfruit... what might the full harvest be like?

**5. The fact that Jesus is alive and well enables us to also live that life NOW**

Rom 6:3 *...don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

<sup>5</sup> *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his...*

<sup>8</sup> *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

<sup>11</sup> *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

**6. The fact that Jesus is alive and well, gives us power to live life God's way, the Jesus way**

**Romans 8:11** *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 because of<sup>[e]</sup> his Spirit who lives in you.*

The Bible does not teach that we will be sinless in this physical body. On the other hand, we can sin less, not by our own abilities, but by the power of the Spirit.

Christ in us makes us altogether different kinds of people.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Old things have passed away . . . all things have become new”.*

By raising Jesus from the grave, God has given you power to live life His way.

By rising from the dead to return to eternal power at the right hand of the Father, Jesus fulfilled a vital part of the plan of God that has huge implications for the life and future of every human being.

The word power occurs 57 times in the New Testament and here its used to describe the most powerful event that ever happened, an event that separated AD from BC – it’s one of the most momentous events in history — And that resurrection power is available to change your life!

Paul writes, – Philippians 3:10

*I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.*

Ephesians 1:19–20

*I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help those who believe Him. It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honour at God’s right hand in heaven. –*

Paul uses the Greek word for power, *dunamis*, which is the root of our word dynamite. So Paul is saying, “God wants to give you dynamic power that will change your life.” Yes, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead two thousand years ago is available to us right now to transform the vulnerable and weakest areas of our lives into strengths.

**7. The fact that Jesus is alive and well affirms Jesus as the living, active Head of the Church.**

Jesus is alive and well as the day-to-day decision maker for His Church.

Peter...“You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”...

Jesus... “You are Peter and on this rock **I will build my Church** and the gates of hell will not prevail against it”

Col 1:18

*And he is **the head of the body, the church**; he is **the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead**, so that in everything he might have **the supremacy**.*

8. The fact that Jesus is alive and well **guarantees He will return.**

**Acts 1:11** [After Jesus ascended the angels said] *‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’*

Every promise for the future is founded on the fact that Jesus is alive and well and will return, but if He had not been raised from the dead, all promises of His rulership and His future Kingdom would be meaningless.

He promised He would return, and that He wanted His followers to be with Him.

John 14:3 *“And if I go and prepare a place for **you**, I will come back and take **you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**”*

And His reward would be with Him when He returns

Rev 22: <sup>12</sup> ‘Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

None of these would be possible unless He was alive and well.

9. The fact that Jesus is alive and well **is the guarantee of ultimate justice.**

If Jesus had not been raised from the dead after living a perfect, sinless life, the only conclusion we could draw is that in the end, evil wins and good is destroyed.

If Jesus has not been raised from the dead... Corruption, poverty, slavery, violence, war and ethnic cleansing, selfishness and greed win the day.

But, the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus powerfully demonstrate God's mercy and justice.

*James 2: <sup>12</sup> Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, (not the law of sin and death) <sup>13</sup> ... Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

Let us never forget the incredible importance of Jesus Christ's resurrection. It is the anchor of every hope we have and ultimately the anchor of hope for all mankind.

But now is Christ risen. Hallelujah!

Jesus is alive and well on planet earth!

**We need to make sure Jesus is alive and well...**

...in our generation

...throughout our community

...in our lives

...in our church