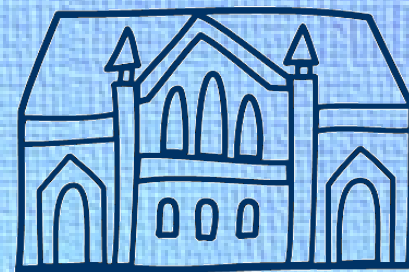


# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 15th April 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.  
This morning is Sunday - the day to remember the resurrection

[www.calvary-brighton.org.uk](http://www.calvary-brighton.org.uk)

*Sermons and talks - [calvary-brighton.sermon.net](http://calvary-brighton.sermon.net)*

## Lord's Day 17 - Question 45

Q: How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

Answer:

First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he could make us share in the righteousness which he had obtained for us by his death.

Second, by his power we too are raised up to a new life.

Third, Christ's resurrection is to us a sure pledge of our glorious resurrection

45. Q.

***Q: What good is the empty tomb?***

Death is overcome by Jesus' resurrection,  
And he makes us share with him his life and righteousness.

***Q: How does that make a difference in our lives?***

By his power we're raised up to a new life now -  
it pledges for the future our bodies will be raised!

# Believing in the Resurrection of Jesus

- what about the  
resurrection AFTER  
Easter??

*We should believe in  
the Resurrection of  
Jesus with assured  
faith and solid  
comfort*



*We should believe in the resurrection of Jesus with assured faith and solid comfort*

- *Q1: is it really possible for people today to believe in the resurrection of Jesus?*
- A: it is certainly possible
- *Q2: is it necessary for people ...*
- A: it is forced upon us by truths of history
- *Q3: is it at all relevant, helpful, useful, profitable ... to believe in the resurrection of Jesus*
- A: it is the only way to live - both now and for the future

*We should believe in the resurrection of Jesus with assured faith and solid comfort*

## Q1 - is it possible for people today to believe in the resurrection of Jesus

- "IMpossible" = "we are not gullible and unscientific like people in ancient times - **we** know that people do not rise from the dead"
- **Answer:**
  - Try telling that to ancient Greeks. They too knew that resurrection was impossible (via philosophy of material)
  - 15:29 (Acts 17:32 resurrection ... they sneered)
  - ==> ***"no resurrection"***
- They also knew "there was no way"
  - 15:35 "how" - the question of science/engineering
  - "YOU FOOL"
  - ==> ***but we actually trust in many things without knowing "how"***  
***e.g. mobile phone!***

*We should believe in the resurrection of Jesus with assured faith and solid comfort*

- **Paul's answer to unbelievability**

- v.5 we saw it with our own eyes: **witness to deeds**
  - Luke 24:11 seemed like nonsense
  - Luke 24:34 it is true -he has appeared
- Jesus himself foretold it: Luke 24:44 **witness of words**
- The Scriptures foretell and fit with the resurrection: word of God
  - 1 Cor 15:3,4 according to the Scriptures (x2)
  - Luke 24:25,26 slow to believe ... Scriptures
  - v.32 "opened the Scriptures"
  - v.45 "opened their minds to the Scriptures"
  - If God can do all the other things in the book, then why not this?
- John 20:28-31
  - => believe the supernatural multiple testimony! (stop running away ... run towards)
- IT's NOT a problem of EVIDENCE

*The Resurrection of Jesus*



*We should believe in the resurrection of Jesus with assured faith and solid comfort*

Q: is it necessary to believe?

- i.e. (a) for Christians ... (b) for not-Christians
- (a) absolutely - see this evening
- (b) absolutely - see now

1) Superstition = believing nonsense

- e.g. horoscopes

2) Gullibility = willing to believe on inadequate evidence

- "I am your cousin from Nigeria and ... \$100000"

3) Denial = unwilling to believe even when there is evidence

- "smoking damages your health", "exercise is beneficial"

=> if you really believed it you would do something about it!!

*Which one is Christianity?*



*We should believe in the resurrection of Jesus with assured faith and solid comfort*

- **(a) the existence of God is a matter of ...??**
  - *(1) Superstition (2) Gullibility (3) Denial*
  - Bible says: .....
    - (3) EVERYBODY KNOWS! Supernatural universe
- **(b) the truthfulness of the Bible**
  - *(1) Superstition (2) Gullibility (3) Denial*
  - Bible says: .....
    - (3) It proves itself (if you don't run away!) - via personal interaction
- **(c) the historical truth of the resurrection ...**
  - Submit to (a), relate to (b), receive testimony of (c)
  - DIFFICULT to believe = YES!
  - NECESSARY to believe! = YES! Part of the package in God's world
- **Objection #1:** this is heavy duty stuff!
- **Answer:** it is almost certainly a journey ... are you there? are you making any progress??
- **Objection #2:** I do believe it ... but it has no particular impact in my life
- **Answer:** if you really believed it you would do something about it

*We should believe in the resurrection of Jesus with assured faith and solid comfort*

- *Q3: is it at all relevant, helpful, useful, profitable ... to believe in the resurrection of Jesus*
- *i.e. is it simply a matter of "faith" = airy/fairy/works for you*

v.2,14 such faith is not in vain (other faith is in vain)

- v.16 if untrue then - Xtn faith is futile, sins are unforgiven, the departed are lost, Xtns are deluded idiots
- But Paul claims the **opposite** (v.42)
  - Not *futile* - but fruitful (v.58)
  - Not *unforgiven* - but forgiven (v.56)
  - Death is *not the end*, but there is a future beyond (v.52ff)
  - Xtns are *not deluded* but wise investors



*We should believe in the resurrection of Jesus with assured faith and solid comfort*

- **It is useful and relevant because:**
- **1. It puts believers/disciples into a relationship with a Person who is living and responding**
  - *i.e. not a philosophy, nor observances, but a friendship*
- **2. It gives us a positive basis to hope for the future (N.B. lots of things don't work without that - exams, pregnancy, investment, keeping fit ...)**
  - *In this case: the long-term distant future*
- **3. It assures us objectively that the experiences of the Christian life now are based outside ourselves in something that is true for God (not just for us)**
  - *Forgiveness, newness of spiritual life, devotion, worship of Jesus, ethical direction, long term meaning and purpose in life, I am personally in union with God*
  - *Would you like to be "in on that"?*
  - *This is how the gospel is preached to you, by it you are saved if you hold firmly to this message ...*



*We should believe in the resurrection of Jesus with assured faith and solid comfort*

- 1 Corinthians chapter 15:50-58
- "I declare to you brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God ... listen, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep [=die] but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet shall sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will all be changed..."
- "Therefore dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."