



Tim Green: 'On the third day he rose again'

Overview:

Tim recapped the Creed series so far, explaining that it is made up of the key truths agreed upon by the Christian church, and that the second half focuses on things that we don't often think about as much (full creed pasted below).

(i) He explained that Jesus resurrection was different to any other previous or subsequent resurrection because he never died again (unlike Lazarus or modern day resurrections). This means that he was resurrected to an 'imperishable' body, but a body nonetheless. **(ii)** He explained that it's vital for Christian understanding because without it our faith is futile: 1. it insures our past new birth, 2. demonstrates our justification and 3. guarantees our future bodily resurrection.

Full Creed text

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Questions and activities

Tim explained that he wasn't going to focus on the historical evidence for the resurrection. However, you may decide that your group would benefit from looking at this either (a) for their own understanding or (b) for apologetics and evangelistic purposes. If you want to use this, try to watch it first and think about how you will use it. Alternatively you could send these resources out to people.

Here's a short, relatively simple video by Lee Strobel (3 mins)

<https://gochattervideos.com/evidence-for-the-resurrection/>

Here's a slightly longer, more intellectual video by William Lane Craig (9 mins). Not for everyone.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Od8U-Z_NVFA

The following questions are based on the Sunday sermon and 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-20.

1. (In pairs) Q- What is your understanding of Jesus' resurrection and why it's important. Discuss what you do know and share what you'd like to know more about. Feed back to the group.

Try to make a note of the questions and see if they can be answered throughout the evening. If not, go away and find out some answers.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. It seems that in Corinth some were denying bodily resurrection. This may be something similar to the Sadducees (Mark 12:18) or something linked with Gnosticism, that believed that the body was bad and only the 'soul' would rise. (This is not a Christian belief, despite its popularity: More on this in January!)

Q-How does Paul link the historical fact of Jesus' bodily resurrection with the bodily resurrection of the dead in general?

Paul wants the Corinthians to understand that bodily resurrection (Of Christians who have faith in God) is based on Jesus rising. In fact, Jesus' rising from the dead, guarantees that those who have faith in him will do so after death.

3. Q- How does Paul link Jesus' bodily resurrection with our sins?

Paul wants them to see that being 'born again' is when we died spiritually to our old life and sin, and rose spiritually. This is why baptism is presented going down to death, in water, and rising to new life.

Read Romans 6:1-12 together to see the power of this truth.

Response:

Give opportunity to pray in small groups for each other. Sometimes we forget our new resurrection life and live as if it never happened (being born again) or that it will never happen (bodily).

1. Pray for each other that we would be (i) free from the power of sin and know the Holy Spirit's power to remind us of our spiritual resurrection each day.

2. Pray that we would have a sure hope in our future bodily resurrection, which would give us courage each day.

Give opportunity for people to confess specific sins and/or fears and disappointments.