

The Receipt

” *Who was raised again for our justification.* ” (Romans 4:25).

Let's continue with this excellent theme of the Resurrection.

Do you ever have doubts and fears about whether Jesus has saved you or not? Perhaps you are not sure if His blood has paid for you? If so, you can do no better than to look at the receipt!

The receipt? ...

What is the receipt? ...

Is the receipt the blood of Christ? ...

No, the blood is not the receipt. The blood was vital. It was the currency used to pay our ransom, but it is not the receipt!

So, what then is the receipt?

The receipt is the risen Christ. **God has raised Him for (*because of*) our justification.** His resurrection, however, does not justify us. No indeed! He was raised, not to justify us, but because we were already justified by His saving acts at the cross.

Romans 5:9 tells us we were justified by His blood. Because of Christ's work *for us*, we were given a new standing before God. His resurrection is proof positive that the debt which we owed has been paid in full! It is the receipt.

I like what Barnhouse says on this. He observes, “It was our merited condemnation that caused His death, and it was our accomplished justification that caused His resurrection.”

Barnhouse: Romans: cpt 37: Delivered and Raised.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save His people. He undertook to pay the penalty earned by our sins; He endured the wrath of the Father. He died the death and sustained the judgment we His people deserved. He died not merely *for us*, He dies as though he were us. God's Lamb took our sins and suffered as the innocent substitute ... the just for the unjust ... that He might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18).

A missionary from Africa tells the story of a Muslim man he knew who became a Christian. The man faced terrible persecution from his friends and family who asked him, “Why have you abandoned your family, your culture, and your God to become a Christian?”

The man answered, “Well, suppose you were walking down the road, and suddenly the road forked in two directions and you didn't know which one to take. At the fork in the road were two men—one dead man and one living. Which one would you ask for directions?”

Great Illustration!

Yes indeed, Jesus is alive. Why ask Buddha for directions. Buddha is dead, Mohamed is dead, Confucius is dead, all the other leaders who promised supposed truth are dead.

But Jesus is alive. We can listen to Him.

His blood paid our debt. His resurrection and exaltation declared that the Father is satisfied that the debt has been paid. The resurrection was the receipt that the account had been settled.

The resurrection validated every claim Jesus ever made about Himself. He is God in human flesh, the Way the Truth and the Life. The resurrection confirms these and all other claims He made (see John 8:56–59; Exodus 3:14; John 5:18; John 14:6; John 14:9).

Christ was raised from the dead. He then ascended to heaven. We also, if we die before His return, will be raised from the dead when He does come back. On what basis will we be raised from the dead? Because we have been good? No! It is because the Father is entirely satisfied with Jesus. He sees us in Jesus and all of Christ's accomplishments and perfections are reckoned as ours.

Jesus arose,
Jesus ascended,
Jesus is seated in cosmic authority.
What an amazing receipt!
His resurrection, ascension and glorification can neither lie, nor change.

“The everlasting God
In time a babe was born;
The lowly Jesus, Son of Man,
In woe, in want, and scorn.
What works of love, what words of grace,
He heralded afar;
And then He bled for sinful men,
A dying Conqueror.

Now exalted on the throne of God,
In majesty and might,
His name the sinner's joyful plea,
The Father's full delight.
Messiah, Lord, the Saviour-God,
The Bright and Morning Star;
Oh, tell His triumph and His fame,
The Risen Conqueror.”

We have our receipt!

Not only has Christ's work of atonement been accepted by the Father, but Christ Himself has also been accepted. This is witnessed in His ascension and glorification (1 Timothy 3:16). He is seated in the highest place in heaven ... at the Father's own right hand, (*the term for the place of ultimate authority*) ... (see Ephesians 1:20-22; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 3:1). He is there now as a glorified Man with all the favour and majesty of God resting on Him.

What a wonderful receipt!

We are safe!