**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment IV – *Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith* Progressive Bible Concepts - #37 “The Gravity of Jesus – Part III” The Crucifixion and Resurrection**

**Segment IV – The Author and Perfecter of Our Faith (Concepts 33-43)**

* Concept 33 – “Fixing Our Eyes Upon Jesus”
* Concept 34 – “Eyes Upon the Lord”
* Concept 35 – “The Gravity of Jesus” Part I
* Concept 36 – “The Gravity of Jesus” Part II
* **Concept 37 – “The Gravity of Jesus” Part III**

**Primary Imperative**

*“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_\_ on J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Heb 12:1,2

**The Gravity of Jesus is rooted in the following aspects of His Personhood:**

1. His Preexistence
2. His Prefiguration
3. His Incarnation
4. His Virgin Birth
5. His C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. His R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. His Ascension
8. His Second Coming

**Death Through Crucifixion**

* Cross – *staupos* – an upright pale or stake; a stake on which malefactors were nailed for e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which was also known as crucifixion
* Crucify – *staupow* – to drive a stake or to n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a stake
* *“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself…to the point of death, even d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on a c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”* Phil 2:8
* *“Since then the children share in flesh and blood, he Himself likewise also partook of the same, that t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil…”* Heb 2:14

**Prediction and Fulfillment**

* *“Behold we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the priests and the scribes and the Gentiles and they will c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him…”* Matt 20:18,19
* *“You know that after two days, the Passover is coming and the Son of Man is to be delivered up to be c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Matt 26:2*
* *Pilate said to them, “What shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?” They all said, “Let Him be c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Matthew 27:22*
* *“Then he released Barabbas for them; but Jesus he scourged and delivered over to be crucified.” Matt 27:26*
* “*And when they had come to a place called Golgotha…and when they had c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him, they divided up His garments among themselves…” Matt 27:33,35*

**Description of Crucifixion**

* *“For indeed a death by crucifixion seems to include all that pain and death can have of horrible and ghastly—dizziness, cramp, thirst, starvation, sleeplessness, traumatic fever, tetanus, shame, publicity of shame, long continuance of torment, horror of anticipation, mortification of untended wounds—all intensified just up to the point at which they can be endured at all, but all stopping just short of the point which would give to the sufferer the relief of unconsciousness. The unnatural position made every movement painful; the lacerated veins and crushed tendons throbbed with incessant anguish; the wound, inflamed by exposure, gradually gangrened; the arteries—especially at the head and stomach—became swollen and oppressed with surcharged blood; and while each variety of misery went on gradually increasing, there was added to them the intolerable pang of a burning and raging thirst; and all these physical complications caused an internal excitement and anxiety, which made the prospect of death itself—of death, the unknown enemy, at whose approach man usually shudders most—bear the aspect of a delicious and exquisite release.”*  *~Farrar*

**True Agony of Christ’s Crucifixion**

* *He “demonstrates that the death of Christ was due, not to physical exhaustion, or to the pains of crucifixion, but to a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of m\_\_\_\_\_\_ producing r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. His energy of mind and body in the act of dissolution proves beyond contradiction that His death was not the result of exhaustion; the solder’s spear was the means to exhibiting to the world that His death was due to a cardiac rupture.”* Professor Day, speaking of the volume *The Physical Cause of the Death of Christ”* by its author, *James Thompson*

**Context of the Crucifixion**

* **Jesus suffered much more than just crucifixion:**
	+ B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by one of his closet followers
	+ Public a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ D\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by his inner circle, d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by Peter, the group leader
	+ Tried u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ Crown of t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His own cross
	+ Suffered on the cross for s\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ Pierced by a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Scourging – One Aspect of Ordeal**

* *Scourging - “Although the Hebrews limited by their law the number of strokes in a scourging to forty, the Romans set no such l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and the victim was at the mercy of his scourgers.”*
* *“Five times I have received from the Jews \_\_\_ lashes.”* II Cor 11:24 (whips had 3 strands so \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ = 39).

**Crucifixion - Confirmation**

* Josephus – Jewish Historian – wrote around 93AD -*“At this time (time of Pilate) there was a wise man who was called Jesus. His conduct was good and he was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to d\_\_\_\_.”* Writings of Josephus, book 18, Chap 3, section 3

**Crucifixion and Resurrection - Inseparability**

Jesus often I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *the prediction of His death with the prediction of His resurrection.*

* *“From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things…and be k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and be r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ up on the third day.”* Matt 16:21, Mark 8:31, Luke 9:22
* “*Jesus himself never predicted his death w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ adding that he would rise, and described his coming resurrection as a ‘sign.’ Paul, at the beginning of his letter to the Romans, wrote that Jesus was ‘designated Son of God in power…by his resurrection from the dead,’ and the earliest sermons of the apostles recorded in the Acts repeatedly assert that by the resurrection God has r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ man’s sentence and vindicated his Son*.” ~John R. W. Stott

**Resurrection of Christ – The Heart of the Gospel**

* Definition – *anastasis* – *ana(\_\_\_*), *istemi* (\_\_\_\_\_\_)
* *“For I delivered to you as of first importance, what I also received, that Christ d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for our sins, according to the scriptures, and that He was b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and that He r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the third day according to the scriptures…”* I Cor 15:3,4
* Christ d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – *“…He said ‘It is finished’ and He bowed His head and g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ u\_\_\_ His S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.* John 19:30
* Christ was b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – *“Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden there was a tomb, in which no one had been laid…they l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”* John 19:41-42 *Wilbur M. Smith* observes that *“the word for tomb or sepulcher occurs t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-t\_\_\_\_ times in these four Gospel records of the resurrection…”*
* Christ r\_\_\_\_\_\_ again – *“But on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb…when they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus…suddenly two men stood near them in dazzling apparel…who said, “Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”* Luke 24:1-6 (selected portions)

**Resurrection – Significance**

* Jesus has three compelling credentials:
	+ The impact of His life upon h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ The fulfillment of p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ His r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* *“While speaking of the positive evidence of the resurrection of the Lord, it may be further urged that the fact, if true, h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all the other facts of his history.”* ~Milligan
* Significance – *“The c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ doctrine and claim of the Christian faith is the r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ, Whom God brought forth from the dead. The resurrection of the dead refers to the promise based on the bodily resurrection of Jesus, that all believers will one day join Christ in the resurrection. Believers will be transformed, that is, renewed both morally and physically with “spiritual” bodies adapted for eternal life with God.” ~*Dictionary of Theology

**Resurrection – Confirming of the Scripture**

* *“The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking of the temple of His body. So w\_\_\_\_\_\_ He was r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the d\_\_\_\_\_\_, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the word which Jesus had spoken.”* John 2:18-22
* *“But Jesus said to Him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if someone rises from the dead.”* Luke 16:31 Jesus reinforces that faith comes p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through the word of God.

**Resurrection of Jesus – Distinct from those were raised before Him**

* Significance – The resurrection of Christ did not consist in the mere reunion of body and soul, but especially this, that in His human nature, both body and soul, was restored to its original beauty and strength, and even raised to a higher level. In distinction from those who had been raised up before Him (who were restored to their earthly bodies), He arose with a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ body. For that reason, He can be called ‘the first fruits of them that slept,’ and the firstborn from the dead.

**Resurrection – Integral to the Christian Faith**

* *“If our Lord said, frequently, with great definiteness and detail, that after He went up to Jerusalem He would be put to death, but on the third day He would rise again from the grave, and this prediction came to pass, then it has always seemed to me that e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ else that our Lord ever said must also be t\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*  *~*Wilbur M. Smith
* “*D.F. Strauss, e.g., the most trenchant and remorseless of critics in dealing with the Resurrection, acknowledges that it is the ‘touchstone not of lives of Jesus only, but of Christianity itself.’ That it ‘touches all Christianity to the quick,’ and is ‘decisive for the whole view of Christianity’ If this goes, all that is vital and essential in Christianity goes; if this r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, all else r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And so through the centuries, from Celsus onwards, the Resurrection has been the s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the attack upon the Christian faith.”* ~Dictionary of the Apostolic Church
* *“Christ himself deliberately s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ claim to the credit of men upon his r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. When asked for a sign he pointed to this sign as his single and sufficient c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” ~*B.B. Warfield
* *“The resurrection of Christ is therefore emphatically a test question upon which depends the truth or falsehood of the Christian religion. It is either the greatest m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or the greatest d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which history records.” ~*Philip Schaff

**Resurrection – Historical Validation**

Josephus – Jewish Historian – wrote around 93AD

* *“At this time (time of Pilate) there was a wise man who was called Jesus. His conduct was good and he was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who became his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.” ~*Writings of Josephus book 18, Chap 3, section 3
* *“The m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the resurrection is a theological matter, but the f\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the resurrection is a historical matter.” ~*Wilbur Smith
* *“Let it simply be said that we know m\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the details of the hours immediately before and the actual death of Jesus, in and near Jerusalem, than we know about the death of any other one man in all the a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ world.” ~*Wilbur Smith
* *“The most cursory reading of the Gospels reveals the fact that the Gospels deal with the death and resurrection of Christ in far greater detail than any other part of the ministry of Christ. The details of the resurrection must not be artificially s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the passion account.” ~*Bernard Ramm
* *“The fact that Christ rose from the dead on the third day in full continuity of body and soul—that fact seems as s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as historical evidence can make it.”* ~Professor Edwin Gordon Selwyn
* *“In both ecclesiastical history and creedal history the resurrection is affirmed from the e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ times. It is mentioned in Clement of Rome, Epistle to the Corinthians (A.D. 95), the earliest document of church history and so continuously throughout all of the patristic period. It appears in all forms of the Apostles’ Creed and is never d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” ~Bernard Ramm*
* *“Jesus Christ is described as our h\_\_\_\_\_\_ through the Resurrection. The Resurrection of Jesus is the p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our Resurrection also. “ ~Sparrow Simpson*

**Resurrection – Logical Validation**

* The straightforward, factual manner in which it is r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bears evidence of its truthfulness.
* The p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life of Christ demands such a m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ climax.
* The e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ grave and the d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the body argue in favor of it.
* The d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ transformation of the disciples attest to it.
* The live e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the church is tangible evidence of the live existence of its Head, the resurrected Lord Jesus.
* The w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Paul affirms it.
* The Lord’s Day being on the f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of the week is based upon it.

**Resurrection of Christ – Key stone & Cradle**

* *“Faith in the resurrection is the very k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the arch of Christian faith, and, when it is removed, all must inevitably crumble into ruin.”*  *~*H.P. Liddon
* *“The empty tomb of Christ has been the c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Church…”* ~W. Robertson Nicoll quotes Pressense’

****

**Paul’s Exasperation with Skeptics**

* *“Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some of you say that there is no r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the dead?”* I Cor 15:12

****

**Summary**

Concept 37 - The Crucifixion and Resurrection

* By the crucifixion of Jesus, God has reversed man’s sentence of death in the grave and through Jesus’ resurrection has established the promise of life beyond the grave**.**

**Next Week –** Concept 38 – Ascension and Second Coming

* The Ascension and Second Coming of Jesus