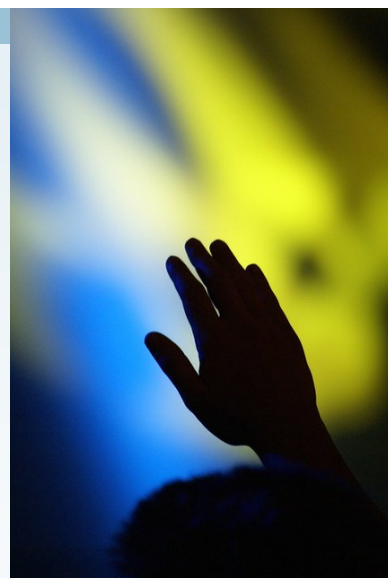




April 2022



Fox River Life



The proceeding article is entitled: How Does Christ's Resurrection Benefit Us? It is authored by Daniel Ragusa who is the pastor of Messiah's Reformed Fellowship

(URCNA) in New York City. He received his M.Div. from Mid-America Reformed Seminary and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Westminster Theological Seminary.

How Does Christ's Resurrection Benefit Us?

The Heidelberg Catechism (1563) embodies the commitment of the Reformation to non-speculative theology as it logically expounds core biblical truths along practical and pastoral lines for the Christian life. Beginning with belonging to Christ as our only comfort in life and in death (Q/A 1) and concluding with the prayer Christ taught us to pray with full assurance knowing God will surely listen to us in his name (Q/A 116-129), the document constantly unfolds the implications of our personal, covenantal relationship with Christ.

This is manifest in the catechism's exposition of the article of the Apostles' Creed on the resurrection of Christ. What good is it for the church to believe that on the third day Christ rose again from the dead? Is this article of faith dispensable for the Christian life? Specifically it asks, "How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?" Are these benefits something we can do without?

Behind this question is a biblical realization that just as Christ

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The Lord's Supper

But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.

18)For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you.

And I believe it in part,

19)for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. 20)When you come together, it is not the

Lord's supper that you eat. 21)For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes

hungry, another gets drunk. 22)What! Do you not have houses to eat and

drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

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From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

did not die for himself, but for us, so he was not raised for himself, but for us. The apostle Paul writes, "[Christ] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). The question, then, is not selfish, hedonistic or man-centered, but properly Christ-centered as it shines the spotlight on his gracious role as our mediator. All of the magnificent benefits that we enjoy because of Christ's resurrection resound to the praise of God's glorious grace.

With that in mind, we can now look at the three benefits that the Heidelberg lists.

1. Death Has Been Overcome

"First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death."

Scripture Proofs: Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:16-20; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

Despite attempts to normalize death (think Lion King's circle of life) or to distract us from its inevitable blow, the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us the boldness to look unflinchingly into its eyes knowing that it has been overcome. The people of God, then, have every reason to be lionhearted in the face of suffering, for we know the Lion of the tribe of Judah holds in his hands the keys of Death and Hades (Rev. 1:18). "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:56-57). The glory of Christ's resurrection shines in its power to transform our death from a payment for the debts of our sin into our triumphal entrance into eternal life. For we have come to share in his righteousness, which has opened up for us "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you" (1 Pet. 1:4).

2. We Have Already Been Raised to New Life

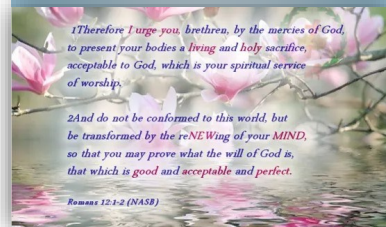
"Second, by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life."

Scripture Proofs: Rom. 6:5-11; Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 3:1-4

The Heidelberg catechism was well-aware of what has come to be termed the "already-not yet" of salvation (yes, even without the help of Vos' Pauline Eschatology!). The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ were not private events, but the public work of our



"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."
Philippians 1:3-5



Thank you so much for your generous donations in support of our donation drive for Vida! As you see in the picture to the right, we were able to jointly provide a nice amount of needed items for the families in need that use the services that Vida provides. What you can't see is the seventeen \$10 Kwik Trip cards that will also be given to Vida to give to anyone in need of fuel. Hannah & Lily Hoffman would also like to thank you for supporting their fundraiser for their band and choir trip to Hawaii in June. Your generosity helped them earn an addition \$17 towards their trip!



23) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27) Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28) Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29) For anyone who



Jan Jourdan reported that the Single Ladies Gatherings at her house are going very well. The ladies are getting to know each other on a personal level. They will be sad to have Cindy Kempen gone from their group when she moves to Pennsylvania. Their next meeting will be on April 5th.

Our Ladies' Craft & Lunch will be on Sunday, April 24th. We will be making a fun, spring wreath using cardboard egg cartons. If you have any, please bring them to the office, and Linda will keep them for the craft. Please sign-up at the Welcome Desk in the foyer.

We have some other fun events in the works for the summer...stay tuned for more information!

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eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

31)But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.

32)But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. 33)So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another-- 34)if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home--so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come."

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

covenant mediator who died and rose again as our representative. So "if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Rom. 6:5). By means of our union with Christ by his Spirit through faith we have already been born again to a new life (1 Pet. 1:3), made partakers of the new creation (2 Cor. 5:17), and are presently seated with Christ in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:4-6). We cannot see this with our physical eyes and that's ok for the present. For we are called today to walk by faith, not by sight. We might better learn to do this if we start viewing ourselves and our circumstances through our ears attuned to the Word of God, rather than our eyes.

3. Our Glorious Resurrection is Guaranteed

"Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection."

Scripture Proofs: Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:12-23; Phil. 3:20-21

While we have already been raised with Christ to a new life, our physical bodies remain subject to our present state of humiliation. This is the case because as Christians united to Christ we follow in his footsteps from humiliation to exaltation, from the cross to the crown, from shame to glory (you can see this pattern in Phil. 2:6-11 and Rom. 1:3-4). So, the apostle Paul doesn't care how fit you may be or how few GMOs you may consume, when he notes that our present natural bodies are perishable, dishonorable and weak (1 Cor. 15:42-43). Essential Oils will not reverse the perishability of your body. Designer clothing will not cover its dishonor. And the perfect gym routine will still leave you weak. In fact, nothing in this creation can change this description of you, save the power of Christ in his resurrection. In him alone is what is perishable, dishonorable and weak raised to a new, Spiritual (note the capital "S") existence of imperishability, honor and power. We share in his sufferings today, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible we might attain the resurrection from the dead (Phil. 3:10-11). "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our body of humiliation [τὸ σῶμα τῆς ταπεινώσεως] to be like his body of glory [τῷ σώματι τῆς δόξης], by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself" (Phil. 3:20-21; cf. Rom. 8:29). It is in the hope of this glorious resurrection, which Christ's own resurrection guarantees as the firstfruits, that we live and die to the glory of God the Father.

Intentional Discipleship Update

The Men's and Women's Bible studies are going strong. The Thursday Ladies Bible Study has just finished a book about

Godliness by Jerry Bridges. They are starting a new study on the names of God that will carry them through to late spring before they take a break for the summer. The Saturday morning Ladies Bible Study is about three fourths of the way through Hebrews and will take some time off for the summer as well. Finally the Men's Saturday morning Bible Study has just entered into the discussion of the Book of Revelation. They also will take some time off this summer as well.

We have just finished our brief Puritan interlude in Sunday School and we will be starting Unit 16 of our regular Sunday School Curriculum on Sunday April 3rd. We will be discussing The Teaching of Jesus. and will finish sometime in June, before taking a summer hiatus.



Spring not only brings April showers, but leads to May flowers...at least that's what they taught us in school! When I was young, I just thought these were cute little sayings, but as I've grown older, I find these little sayings, that were carefully posted on classroom bulletin boards, to be true! "March – In like a lion and out like a lamb" is one that I have really seen to be true!

What does all this have to do with the library? That's a good question! I guess what I'm trying to get at is that, when we were young, we were told stories that in our adult life, we have been able to interpret whether or not they were true. The stories we were told in Sunday School are among those that are definitely true! When spring comes, I am often reminded of the passage of scripture that says, "His mercies are new every morning." We don't have to wait until spring for His new mercies...they are there all the time! "Blessed be the name of the Lord!"

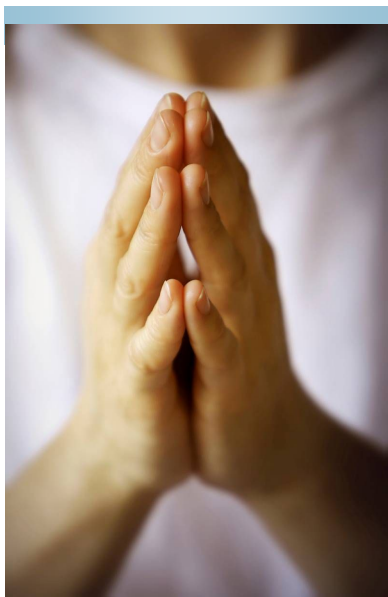
New this spring to our library are some Bible commentaries and the book *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur. Angela Groff is giving her personal "thumbs up" to the latter. The commentaries and the book were donated to the FRBC Library from the personal library of Ron & Cindy Kempen. Thank you Cindy for your generous donation. We will certainly miss you when you are gone.



One Salvation

"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9)if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10)let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by him this man is standing before you well. 11)This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12)And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4: 8-12



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

April 3—Ask PT at 5 pm
April 10—Prayer at 5 pm
April 17—No Evening Service
April 24—Prayer at 5 pm

SUNDAY



Financial Update—March 6-27, 2022
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,606.00
Received: \$
Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



Men's & Women's
Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am



April 3

Howard Schimke

April 10

Scott Smith

April 17

Bob Abitz

April 24

Christopher Smith



Please contact **Carol Smith** at
(920) 788-9795

to volunteer in 3 different
capacities in our children's
ministry. There are also sign-up
sheets for the different rooms
you can serve in down the
children's Sunday School wing.

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect non-perishable food items.
Place your food items on the table provided in the foyer.



Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address: prayer@foxriverbaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Becky Godfrey at becl.godfrey@gmail.com — (920) 277-1526 or Linda Hoffman at hofflad@gmail.com — (715) 255-3809.

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

Over the last two weeks we have raised over \$6000 for various Missions needs: the Ukraine Relief, the Citac's who are ministering to Ukrainian refugees and for our own Ryan Smith who will be going to Estonia this summer to assist with an Evangelistic Music Outreach. I am so very proud to be the pastor of such a generous congregation.



We are done accepting money for the Ukraine relief and the Citac's, however if you would like to still contribute you can do so on the Converge website. You can however, continue to give to Ryan's short term Missionary trip by earmarking the amount given to Ryan's Mission Trip.



Finally as many if not all know our dear sister

Mabel Hurst has gone on her eternal furlough and we ask prayer for Cam & Mary and the rest of her family and friends as they grieve the loss.



Pray Continually

“And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

15)Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

16)Rejoice always, 17)pray continually, 18)give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:14-18



UPDATE...

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 2nd at 2pm.

We will be serving with Shepherds Care on April 7th at a new care community called *Care Partners* in Fox Crossing. We will be providing music and singing as well as assisting with communion. We are also planning a spring seminar/luncheon later in May. Date, time, and speaker to be announced in the near future.

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



6—Janice Jourdan
10—Don Wynkoop
12—Gaylord VanLoo
13—Carolyn Krauss
14—Bob Abitz
21—Scott Dohms
23—Floyd Zoglman



13—Gary & Connie Snortum
25—Christopher & Sara Smith



Fox River Baptist Church

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Office Hours: Wednesday &
Thursday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm