

# Resurrection Realities

by Charles C. Ryrie, Th.D.  
Professor of Greek and Bible  
(On leave of absence to study at  
University of Edinburgh, 1952-53)



MATT. 28:6

### The Tomb—Empty!

In a garden in Jerusalem is a tomb—just one among many in that city, yet different, for this one is empty. Immediately, then, *the world is confronted with a problem*. Where is the body of Jesus Christ? Stolen? Mislaid? Revived and buried later in obscurity? All such theories fail in the light of the evidence of history. The only solution to the problem of the empty tomb which confronts the world is . . .

### The Triumph—Eternal!

"For He is risen," the angel declared to the women that first Easter morning. This is the answer to the empty tomb. "He is not here, for He is risen." Furthermore, we know "that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him." Triumph? Yes, but so was Lazarus' resurrection. More than triumph—eternal triumph, for, unlike Lazarus, Jesus Christ rose to die no more. Immediately, then, *the Christian is comforted by a promise*. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." His resurrection promises ours. And yet this eternal triumph not only comforts the Christian, it also confronts him with . . .

### The Truth—Evident!

"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said." He predicted His resurrection time and again, and it came to pass exactly as He said. He is Truth. Immediately, then, *I am convinced of a Person*. Convinced? Yes, convinced that all that He has promised in every area of life's relationships He is able also to perform. And yet, am I convinced? About His resurrection, yes. But what of His word concerning the lilies, or His promise about mountain-removing faith? Am I really convinced that He will surely do in me all that He said He would? The truth is evident. Surely He can do all. The resurrection assures me of that. But the truth evident is not necessarily the truth practised. Convinced lives are changed lives. Convinced? Then I live it.

WESTMONT COURIER

APRIL 1953

## WESTMONT COURIER

### Training for Christian Leadership

CHARLES C. RYRIE, Th.D., Dean of Men

I believe in "apostolic succession." Paul himself said, "Be ye imitators of me" (1 Cor. 4:16), and as a Christian leader the great apostle was certainly a model in all his relations with the churches. There is, however, perhaps no clearer picture of what constitutes Christian leadership than the one given us of Paul's relationship to the believers at Thessalonica.

Since his initial work at Thessalonica was forcibly cut short after probably only a month's stay in that city (Acts 17:2), Paul was naturally deeply concerned about the welfare of the struggling, persecuted group there. His thoughts toward them as he waited alone in Athens are laid bare for us in First Thessalonians, chapter three. It is striking to notice that all of his actions toward these people have their basis in Paul's realization of what their need would be and his consequent concern for their welfare (vs. 1-5). Most of us stand ready to help meet the needs of others when they are made known, but how few saints there are who think of anticipating them.

This concern soon turned to rejoicing at the return of Timothy with the joyous news that the Thessalonians were standing steadfast in their newly found faith. This rejoicing was life itself to Paul, so great was his concern for those to whom he ministered (vs. 6-8). But never content with past accomplishments, the apostle longed for their further growth in grace even to the extent that no personal sacrifice was too great for their sakes. His desire was a personal ministry once again, but in the meantime he would not be idle toward them but would continue in earnest prayer on their behalf (vs. 9-13).

To this extent we at Westmont believe in "apostolic succession," and we seek to instill such apostolic qualities in all whom we train for Christian leadership.

1 Thess. 3

WESTMONT COURIER

MAY 1951

YEAR PROOF NO. 804-13P U.S.A.

*Meditations on The Word*

DR. CHARLES C. RYRIE, Professor of Greek and Bible

Though we often sing a little chorus which stoutly affirms that we are not downhearted—no, no, no—most of us, if honest, will admit that there often come times of discouragement into our Christian lives.

The apostle Paul was a man of like passions, who on the second missionary journey not only met discouragement but also found the cure for it. When Paul entered Corinth (Acts 18:1-6), he was doubtless extremely discouraged. He was alone, having sent both Timothy and Silas on other errands; he was a stranger in a place far from home and friends; he had no money; he was overworked, working by day making tents in order to support himself and his friends and working by night preaching the gospel; he had recently suffered no little persecution at Philippi and Thessalonica; he was disappointed over the results of the work at Athens; and daily he had the care of all the churches which had been established. Life was not one victory after another for the great apostle, and this certainly was a moment of deep distress for him.

*The Word*

Nevertheless, Paul found encouragement in ways which are available to every Christian today. We read that he "was constrained by the Word" (Acts 18:5, margin); that is, in a new way he gave himself to the study and proclamation of God's Word. Whether it was his disappointment concerning the work at Athens, or his loneliness, or whatever it was, Paul found in the Word of God a source of strength and

encouragement for his own soul, and all who have looked into its pages have found the same needed comfort and cheer. Would to God that we would spend more time in the Book.

*Prayer*

As if it were not enough that God has spoken to us in His Word, He also speaks directly to lift up the downhearted. Thus He spoke to Paul in a vision by night saying, "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee" (18:9-10). Though not in visions, but always loudly and clearly enough for the willing ear to hear, the same One who spoke to Paul and who said to His disciples, "I am with you always," speaks today. How sweet is the communion with God through prayer which rightfully belongs to every believer. May it be the increasing experience of each.

*Friends*

But the God of comfort spoke once again to His beloved servant. This time it was through his friends, Silas and Timothy (18:5). What a day of rejoicing it must have been for Paul when his two companions returned from Macedonia, and what sweet fellowship they must have had in the Lord. While there is no substitute for direct communion alone with God, it seems that one of His most precious blessings is the friendship of brothers and sisters in Christ. So it was to Paul and so may it be for each one of us. In the midst of our busy lives let us not forget to take time, much time if need be, to encourage one another in the Lord.