



*From the Pastor's study*

## ***A Most Real Event***

What do you believe is at the core of the Christian faith and life? The Apostle Paul reminds the church at Corinth that the resurrection is most essential and, thus, is foundational for the Christian faith (I Cor. 15:17). **The resurrection signifies God's vindication of Jesus Christ and our salvation in Messiah Jesus.** If you discard the resurrection, then Jesus becomes just another Palestinian social radical, a Galilean charismatic teacher, and a Mediterranean sanctified mystic. However, the resurrection reveals to us that God delivered a decisive blow to the powers of death, disappointment, and despair and, therefore, shattered all notions that such systems of thinking have the final word over our lives. My brothers and sisters, Christ being raised from the dead unleashed a powerful eschatological truth: God is in ultimate control and not death and doubt. The resurrection of Jesus leads us to embrace a different structural understanding of reality and, thus, we are no longer swayed by the illusions, distortions and perceptions of inauthentic existence and the absurd contradictions that drift underneath (I Cor. 15:24-26).

That structural understanding of reality to which I am referencing is the reality of **God predicated upon God's action in the resurrection. Since according to New Testament faith, and not the "faith" of secularized America, the resurrection is an act of God within God's dimension (Rom. 6:4; I Cor. 15:15; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:20), it is not an event** which can be verified by scientific and historical means; nonetheless, God raising Jesus from the dead was a *real event*. This most *real event* happened beyond the bounds of history and, therefore, it is a transcendental happening out of human death into the all-embracing beyond beyondness dimension of God. My friend, what the resurrection conveys to us symbolically is that God intervenes at the point when we believe all is lost and there is to be no future beyond what we can calculate or measure (e.g., church expenses). The academic discipline of history can verify the death of Jesus, the Easter faith and the Easter proclamation of the disciples, but the fact of neither the resurrection act of God nor the person raised (Jesus) can be apprehended and objectified by historical **method. Yet, by faith, we have been arrested by God's action in the resurrection and,** therefore, I encourage us to throw off the chains of doubt, division, fear, and unbelief and walk in resurrection power (Phil. 3:10, 15).

*Walking with Jesus,*

*Pastor Craig*