

# Jesus Gives New Life to Sinners

**S**uppose you go to a store to buy a new book. After you give money to the cashier for the book, you are given a receipt. On your way out of the store, someone stops you and says, “Wait a minute. I think you are stealing this book. You haven’t paid for it.” You could prove that you own the book by showing them the receipt.

Do you know that when Jesus died on the cross He also paid for something? Instead of paying with money, He paid for this “something” with His life. But what is the something that He paid for? (Hint: it wasn’t a book or anything like that!) To find out, you need to read what happened *after* Jesus died.

First, Jesus’ lifeless body was taken down from the cross and buried. In those days people were usually buried in tombs. Tombs were like caves dug out of hard rock. After Jesus’ dead body was placed in the tomb, a huge, heavy stone was rolled in front of the door. Now, some of the priests and Pharisees were concerned. They worried that Jesus’ disciples would come and steal Jesus’ body. Why would the disciples do that? So they could take people to the empty tomb and say, “Look, Jesus isn’t here. He rose from the dead!” So, just to be on the safe side, soldiers were sent to guard the tomb so that no one could break in. But it wasn’t a break-in they should have been concerned about—it was a break-out!

This is what happened: Mary Magdalene and Mary went to the tomb the first thing in the morning,

And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was

crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.” . . . So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. (Matthew 28:2–6, 8–9)

Imagine how shocked and happy and excited Jesus’ disciples were to see Him again! Jesus was resurrected from the dead! To be *resurrected* means to come alive again with a new kind of body! (Jesus wasn’t a ghost or a spirit.) His resurrected body would never die again.



We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. (Romans 6:9)

Jesus' resurrection was like a receipt proving that He paid for and owns something. First, Jesus paid the penalty for the sins of His people. But He didn't pay using money. He paid using His own life.

Next, when Jesus died on the cross, it was as if God said, "You have paid for all the punishment that my sinful people deserve. Now You have bought something in return." What did Jesus buy with the payment? . . . **"Death no longer has dominion over him."** Jesus bought eternal life! How can He prove that He now owns eternal life? He was resurrected! His resurrection is like a receipt showing that eternal life belongs to Him. He paid for it in full.

However, Jesus' resurrection is also really important for His people. Why? Because Jesus didn't buy eternal life only for Himself. His payment was enough to buy eternal life for *all* His people.

**For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:40)**

**Jesus said . . . "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)**

Jesus really did finish the job He came to do. His resurrection proves it. Jesus bought eternal life for everyone who truly believes in Him as their Savior. Now His people will be able to enjoy God forever. Eternal life with God is the greatest gift Jesus could ever give us!



## LEARNING TO TRUST GOD

- ✦ Even though you weren't there to actually see the risen Jesus, do you trust and believe that He really rose from the dead? Do you have any doubts? Read John 20:24–29 and Hebrews 11:1. Have you ever prayed to Jesus and asked Him for this kind of faith?
- ✦ Spend some time thinking and praying about your response to these questions: Are you looking to Jesus to save you from your sins? Do you believe that He is God's Son? Do you believe that when He died on the cross, He paid the full punishment for your sins? Do you believe that He rose from the dead? Do you believe that He owns eternal life? Is there any way to earn eternal life on your own? Read Romans 6:23.
- ✦ *Activity:* Pretend that you are a television reporter who has been sent to the empty tomb to find out what happened. Next, read Matthew 28:1–10 and think of a creative way to report to your family the facts of what happened. Try to answer: Who? What? Where? When? Why?

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