

DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG

THE RESURRECTION

by the Rev. Walter Orthwein

Of all miracles, the greatest were those in which the Lord brought someone who had died back to life. And the greatest of these was His own Resurrection.

The Lord's Resurrection became a symbol of hope in the Christian Church. But in our scientific, "post-Christian" age, it is considered only a "myth" by many.

It may be a myth, in the sense that it conveys an essential truth. This is what myths are supposed to do. But it is not a myth if by that is meant that it isn't factually true.

Part of the problem people have in regard to the truths of faith is that they isolate particular truths, such as the virgin birth or the resurrection of the Lord, and then they find them incredible as separate articles of belief. But if we see them in the larger context of the Lord's whole life and purpose, then they make sense.

We can understand the Lord's resurrection if we do not isolate it from our understanding of God and creation, revelation, and incarnation, salvation, and other doctrines. As part of a larger picture the Resurrection makes perfect sense.

All supernatural things are incredible to those who are unwilling to believe anything they cannot touch or prove from experience. But if we are willing to believe in a reality beyond the material, then the truths of religion make sense.

The new revelation resurrects our minds from the tomb of naturalistic thought. It gives us a new, spiritual view of the Lord in His glorified humanity, in His Divine Human. He *is* visible today. He is seen with the mind's eye (the understanding), when that eye has been opened by truth from the Word. And this kind of seeing is more certain than any physical view.

But this doesn't mean that our belief in the Lord is a purely intellectual matter. Real belief involves the heart. It is as we live according to His teachings that He is raised up in our minds as a living Man. He is then no longer a mere concept or historical figure. He is a living, Human presence, with us always to strengthen and comfort us, inspire and guide us in the path of life.

Regeneration is a step-by-step, lifelong process of spiritual renewal. It is the Lord's resurrection in us, again and again, as we come ever closer to Him and rejoice in His living presence with us.

"He rises daily in the minds of the regenerate, and even every moment" (*Arcana Coelestia* 2405).

Text: John 20:11-18