

G R O W

Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

The Resurrection – Acts 2:24

What's the longest receipt you've seen? Some stores are notorious for really long receipts. Some stores tack on promotions and coupons on receipts, making for some receipts that are several feet long. I've also seen really long receipts after making shopping trips. There were no promotions or coupons on the receipt, just a lot of items purchased. The IRS recommends that you keep receipts for a few years or longer for items related to your taxes.

Why would anyone need to keep a receipt? The receipt is the proof that you purchased an item. Similarly, the resurrection of Jesus is the proof that Jesus atoned for sin and purchased our salvation. The resurrection is like a "paid in full" stamp on the debt of our sin.

GET FOCUSED

"Whatever it is that helps you focus and be still before God, do that, so that you can get the most from your time in His Word" (GROW Guide).

READ

Don't just rely upon devotionals and commentary on the Bible, actually read the Bible. Turn to Acts 2 and read verse 24. And in the next step, where we look at the context, don't just skim the passage, take time to read it and take it in.

OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In addition to reading our main passage, read the verses around it to understand the **context**. In Acts 2, we read about the Holy Spirit coming upon the believers gathered together in prayer. The Spirit causes some strange things to happen, which get other people's attention. So, Peter addresses the crowd and preaches about Jesus. He tries to help everyone see that Jesus is the Christ and the fulfillment of the scriptures. And Peter references the resurrection several times as a major talking point.

Now, let's **observe** the key words and phrases: God raised Him, loosing the pangs of death, not possible to be held.

To help understand the **meaning** of these words and phrases, invest in a good study Bible or utilize online tools like netbible.org. God did the work in resurrecting Jesus from the dead. It was not a hoax; it was not a trick; it was a work of God. In verse 23, we see that even Jesus' death was part of God's plan, even though it was done at the hands of evil men. There are many scriptures that help us understand who God is (Deut. 6:4, Is. 40:28, Ex. 34:6), but Revelation 4:8-11 helps us see Him clearly. He is Holy, He is Sovereign, and He is Creator. God was at work in Jesus' death and resurrection to accomplish His plan of salvation.

The Bible makes it clear that death entered the world because of sin (Genesis 2:17, Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23). In His death, Jesus bore our sin and He bore our death (2 Cor. 5:21, Col. 2:14). But Jesus was also fully God (Col. 1:19) and without sin (Heb. 4:15), so He was able to fully pay the penalty of sin. And because Jesus paid the full price of sin, He was freed from death. "Loosed" was a term that implied freeing from someone from restraint. We are under bondage in our sin and we cannot free ourselves, but Jesus paid the price and God freed Him. In verse 31, Peter references a promise made to David that Jesus wouldn't be abandoned to Hades. And when we place our faith in Jesus Christ, we are freed too; we are not abandoned to Hell either!

If Jesus were just a mere man, if Jesus was not God, if Jesus were not free from sin, then He would have been held by sin and death. But He was not able to be held because He was God and because He did accomplish the victory over sin. "Death is swallowed up in victory.. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:54-57).

So, what's the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? The resurrection proves that Jesus defeated sin and death.

WORSHIP

Worship means to show how valuable and revered something or someone is. Worship is not just songs; it is the statement our lives make about what is truly important and valuable to us. So, take a few moments and think about what this verse means for your life. How will it impact your life and lead you to worship God?

You don't have to be worried or anxious about death? You can have confidence in Christ because of the resurrection (Romans 4:24-25, Romans 8:34-39). Also, the same working of God to raise Jesus from God is meant to be at work in us, giving us newness of life (Romans 8:11). Are you walking in this newness of life? What's holding you back? How will you respond?