



Arthur Burns, a Jewish economist of great influence in Washington during the tenure of several Presidents, was once asked to pray at a gathering of evangelical politicians. Stunning his hosts, he prayed this: "Lord, I pray that Jews would come to know Jesus Christ. And I pray that Buddhists would come to know Jesus Christ. And I pray that Muslims would come to know Jesus Christ." "And Lord, I pray that Christians would come to know Jesus Christ."

<sup>RSV</sup> Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved **by his life.** (see Romans 4:17 - from 4:17-25)

εἰ γὰρ ἐχθροὶ ὄντες κατηλλάγημεν τῷ θεῷ διὰ τοῦ θανάτου τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ, πολλῶ μᾶλλον καταλλαγέντες σωθησόμεθα **ἐν τῇ ζωῇ αὐτοῦ.**

John 11:25 *"Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection, I am the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."*

Now let's read: Romans 10:8-11 The early church took the resurrection of Christ seriously - as real. It was the cornerstone of their preaching. Look at the sermons in Acts:

- ✦ Acts 1:22 (criterion for selection of an apostle)— *"one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."*
- ✦ Acts 2:23-24, the keynote in Peter's first sermon on the day of Pentecost: *"this Jesus, who was delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having destroyed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it."*
- ✦ Acts 3:15 (Peter's second sermon) *"You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses."*
- ✦ Note also the following: Acts 4:2 ("they were preaching in Jesus the resurrection from the dead"—that is, that because of him we too can be raised!); 4:10; 4:33; 13:30, 34; Acts 17:3; 17:18, 31; 23:6; 24:21; 26:23.
- ✦ Also, note 1 Thess 1:9-10 and 1 Cor 15: 3-5. The church embraced the resurrection as both true and central to the preaching of the gospel.
- † God is the God of the Living or the Living God (Matt 22:32; Luke 20:38; Rom 1:4; 6:9; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 54-57) No text proclaims this as well as 1 Cor 15:20-26

*But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is empty; you are still in your sins. (1Co 15:12-17 TNIV) -*

Jesus and the issue of "Presence." The unique nature of "Who is Jesus?"