

Col. 3.1

Eph. 2:5

April 22 = 1758 -

Jan^y 22 = 1746/7

Believers risen with Christ

Preach^d N B: March 1758

Eph 2:5. Even so: we so: Dead in ~~transgression~~ ^{sin} hath quickn^d us togeth^r
1st 2d = M Cooper AM, N: PM: Apr: 19: 1767 -

Col: 3. 1. If ye then ~~be~~ risen with Christ - seek those things, which are above -

I Christ J: is not only a Propitiat:ⁿ for o^r sins - but the grand Exemplar, to which his People are Predestinat^d - to be conform^d: - - Without io: we may have the Name but are destitute of the real Character of Christians - - We may have the outward form, but not the vital Power of true Religion.

II. As O^r B. Sav^r was conceived in the sacred Womb of the Virgin Mary, by the Overshadowing Power of the H. Ghost - - so Every true Believer is regenerated to a new and a divine Life, by the Almighty⁴ Operations of the same Spirit.

III As Christ was reproached and despised upon Earth - so his Disciples are called ^{in some Degree} to partake of the same Afflict^{ns} - if any Man will live Godly in Christ Jesus - he must Expect to meet with a Variety of Suffer^{gs} and Persecutions.

IV As Christ expired upon the Cross, - so all his faithful Serv^{ts} are crucif^d with him, & are oblig^d to make it their daily Endeavour to mortify the flesh, with its corrupt Lusts and affections.

V. As Christ was raised up from the Grave, by a divine Power - in like manner the whole Body of his Chosen People - are raised from the Death of Sin - to the life of Righteousness - & shall at length Ascend with him

to the mansions of glory - to reign with their exalted Saviour
forever & ever -

II. This is that truth which is taught us in the words of
my text - If ye then are risen - It is not my present
intention to discourse upon the Resurrection of Christ -
this would be to depart from the Design of ^{the Apostle} my text -
but to show the Duty and happiness of Christians - who
are risen with Christ from the Dead - In Discussing
upon which Subject by divine Assistance - I shall thus
Treat All Mankind by Nature and Under the Power
of a Spiritual Death -

Secondly it is the happiness of every true Believer: ^{in L. 4} 4:4
are risen with Christ -

Thirdly Enq: in what respects - the Resurrection of Christ ^{from the Dead}
is the Model and Exemplar of the Spiritual Resurrection
of his People - proceed

Treaty of Men ~~is shown in~~ the Improvement of my
Discourse - ~~that this lays them under the highest~~
~~Obligations to seek those things which are above -~~

First Part

All Mankind by Nature - are under the Power
of Spiritual Death. Dead to God the bounteous Author
of their Being - Dead to the Executor of Pity and Devotion
the most Important Business of life - Dead to the things
of heaven, which were the great Design of Creation & Redemption
^{humane nature}

1. The Great Enemy of free will contend that man is
very disordered and debilitated, by the Apostasy from God -

--- but that he is still possessed of some good Inclinations
& has some remaining sparks of the divine life left
in him -

II But the Scripture speaks in a quite different Lan-
guage - it represents man in himself and in a state
of corrupted Nature - not only as diseased and disordered
- not only as weak - Infirm - and Indisposed to that w^{ch}
is good - - but as ~~dead~~ dead - without any Desire - with^{out}
any Appetite or disposition to divine and Heavenly things -

III He has Indeed the same Natural Powers, & Capacities
with which he was adorned in his first Creation - but
has lost the divine Image which was the glory of our
Innocent Nat: and is become dead in his papers & sin -

IV. He has an Understand: but discerns not the things
of the Spirit, and according to the express determinationⁿ
of St. Paul, is insufficient for so much as a good thing
- He has a Will but it is not subject to the law of
God, and while it continues in its degenerate state per-
petually opposes the Sovereign Orders of Heaven - -
--- He has an heart But the Prophet Jeromiah tells
us this heart is desperately Wicked - its thoughts and Im-
aginations, are evil only evil & that continually -

V. As the dead they see not the excellency and ^{Beauty} ~~glory~~ of
a saviour - that he continually paces before them, in all
glories of his Person - in all the Wonders of his Love - in
all the Riches of his Grace - - - As the Dead

they hear not the Voice of God - tho' he speaks unto^m
by the thunders of his Law - the Promises of his Gospel
- & the Embassadors of his word - & the dead - they speak
not the Praises of God, tho' every moment supported by
his Power - preserved by his Providence - & relieved from the
miseries of Hell - by his wonderful Patience -

VI. And Indeed how can they be otherwise than Dead - since
they are destitute of the quickening Influences of the
Spirit. - The life of the Body is the Soul - the life of
the Soul is God - As the body is dead without the Soul
- so the Soul is dead without God ^{the Indwelling} ~~influencing~~ and
~~animating~~ ^{Influences of Gods} by his Holy Spirit -

VII. Therefore we find the Scripture always ^{represents} ~~speaks of~~
a Sinner while in an Unregenerate State of Nature
as Dead - St. Paul speakth of the Eph^{os}: before they were
in lightened by the Gospel said - You were dead in trespass
and Sins - The same Apostle describing the Condition of
those that live in the Pimp and Pleasures of Vice - says
as that they are dead while they live - And Our B.
Saviour himself - when he look down from Heaven upon
the Church of Sardis, & found that they had only a form
but were destitute of the Power of Godliness - Pronounced
upon them that Melancholly Sentence - They have a
name to live - but are dead - Justly then may we
conclude - that Mankind by Nature are Under the Power
of Spiritual Death - but I pass to a higher Scene -

Second Part -

It is the happiness of every true Believer, that they
are risen with Christ.

I. This perhaps will appear a Paradox to many of my
Hearers, you will be ready to say, with the sister of the
deceased Lazarus - I know that thy shall rise at
the last day - This I acknowledge is the truth but not
the whole truth - They are now risen with Christ & it is
a Privilege which they at present enjoy -

II It is true while they dwell upon Earth - their bodies are
the seat of innumerable diseases - they are exposed to a
variety of distressing trials - they are finally approaching
to the mansion of the grave - the house appointed for
all the living - but yet, they are in a more & exalted
state risen with Christ -

III. To understand which we must consider that there
are two Resurrections - spoken of in sacred Scriptures -
The first is that of the Soul - when it is raised from
the Death of Sin, to live to God - & walk before him in
the ways of righteousness and holiness - - The second
is that of the Body - which shall be raised from the
dust from the corrupting Grave - to live in heaven
in perpetual felicity and glory - It is this first Re-
surrection which I. Paul speaks of in my text - &
which all true Believers are in this life made
the Partakers of -

IV. They are raised from a state of Spiritual Death - to a divine and heavenly life - in the day of their saving conversion - a Supernatural Principle is communicated unto them, by which they are enabled - to renounce the degrading servitude of Sin - and cheerfully to devote themselves to the service of God for ever -

V. They are said to be risen with Christ - because the Resurrection of Christ is the great foundation upon which are built all the Virtues that adorn the Christian life - to speak of these particularly, would engage me in too large a field of discourse for the present opportunity - I shall therefore say in a few words show you that the Resurrection of Christ - is the foundation of our faith - the ground of our hope - the Vial Spring of our Peace and Joy -

1. It is the foundation of our faith - How could we depend on him as the Author of life - if he had eternally remained, fettered with the bonds of Death - How could we regard him as the Son of Righteousness - who enlightens the inhabitants of the Upper and Lower World if he had always continued in the Region of darkness - How could we trust in him as the Sovereign dispenser of Blessings of the Gospel, if he had never suffered under the curse of the Law - No certainly we could never have acknowledged him as the Son of God - & the Saviour man - had not he been ascended the borders of the Cross as a triumphant conqueror from the darkness and the dishonour of the Grave - Therefore we are assured

that he was declared or evidenced to be the Son of
God with power by his Resurrection from the dead —

2. This is the Ground of our Hope — If he had been confined
to the Grave, all our hopes of happiness, must certainly
have been buried with him, — — — All the ^{wonderful works} ~~miracles~~, which
he perform'd in his life — all the Astonishing ^{attended} ~~works~~ ^{which he performed at his Death} would have been
insufficient to convince us, that he was the Son of God
^{Promised Messiah} ~~and the Sav. of the World~~ — if he had remained a
Prisoner of Death — & perished in the dust in common
with the rest of mankind — — — But his Resurrection was
the most illustrious and convincing Evidence, of the Dignity
of his Character, and the divinity of his Mission — Upon
this Evidence Unbelieving Thomas Admired him, as his Lord
and God — And upon this Evidence Sinners in the most
distant Ages of the World, may trust in him as one
that is able to save unto the uttermost, all those
that come to God by him —

3. This is the vital Spring of all our Peace & Joy — What
assurance could believers have of the pardon of their
if Jesus their Saviour — had perished by the Stroke of
Death — How could we suppose, that the demands of the
Law were satisfied — while our Redeemer remained under
the Anath of divine Justice — While a Surety is detained
in Prison — it is a certain Evidence, that the demands of
the Creditor are not answered — While a Criminal is
confined in Chains — it is an Undoubted proof that the

Justice of the Law is not satisfied — If then Jesus
Christ who is the Saviour of his People, had remained a
Prisoner of Death — we could never have believed that
God the Sovereign Judge of the Earth, had received full
satisfaction for our Sins — Therefore St. Paul says if
we have not risen from the dead — our faith is vain &
we are yet in our Sins — But he was raised from
the Grave as a Publick Evidence, that he had satisfied
the Law and made compleat Payment of our Debt.
thence we are said to be begotten Ag^t to a lively hope
by the Resurrection of Christ from the dead — — It
is this that assures every true Believer — That our
Sins are Expiated — that the demands of Justice are
satisfied — that the Sentence, that was pronounced
against us is abolished, & that God is changed from
an Incensed Judge, to a compassionate Father — A
reconciled Friend — — In this respect then true
Believers are risen with Christ — he is the foundation
and Principle of their spiritual Life — But I must
add

Third Part —

That his Resurrection is the Great Pattern & Exemplar
of the spiritual Resurrection of his ^{Church} People — He rose
not as a Private Person, but as the Public Representative
of his ^{People} — & in many respects there is a beautiful
resemblance between them —

I. C. Jesus w^o he rose ag^t from the Dead raised under a mar-
vellous Change, his hum. Nat^l was endow^d with new & ex^traordinary

1. When Lazarus and other S.^{ts} were raised from the dead by the Almighty Power of our Adorable Redeemer - They ascended out of the Grave, with Bodies of the same Nature, and Endowed with the same Properties, which they had before their Deaths - - - They were subject to the Infirmitie of the Flesh - the Approach of Sickness & the Law of mortality in common, with the rest of mankind -
2. But S. Ananias in quite a different manner - he left behind him in the Grave - all the Afflictions and Infirmitie of human Nature - & appeared in the Native Character of the Son of God -
3. In Conformity to his Example every true Believer passes under a Marvellous Change in the day of his Conversion - he experiences a B. Attraction in all the powers and faculties of his Soul - He is no longer a Sensual and earthly minded Sinner - wallowing in the corruption of Vice - Indulging the Appetites of the Flesh - conforming to the manners of a degenerate world - but is a New Creature - Inspired with new Sentiments - Endow'd with new Inclinations - and filled with new Dispositions, walking as it were in a new World of delight and Pleasures -
4. The Disposition of his Mind is so different from what it once was - if he may justly say with the Inspired Apostle - I live - yet not I but Christ liveth in me - - - My Eyes are not longer fixed upon the foolish Vanities of this world - but with pleasing behold the bounding wonders therein contained in the divine Law -

My ears no longer hearken to the tyrannical demands of flesh and blood — but are attentive to the ^{salutary} suggestions of the spirit of God — The members of my Body, are no longer abated as Instruments of Unrighteousness — But employed in the diligent service of heaven — My affections are no longer chained to this Inferior Earth — but ascend above the confines of time — and aspire after the happiness of an Eternal World — W.^o Leavelle one to say,

II Christ Jesus arose not only to a New but a Spiritual kind of life — He was no longer subject to the necessities of Nature — No longer subject liable to hunger & thirst — nor did he stand in need of food, and the other common refreshments of human life — but arose with a spiritual Body — designed to subsist forever — happily exempted from the infirmities and imperfections of this Animal State —

2. And this Resurrection respects, there is a resemblance between S^t the head, and the Saints, the members of his mystical Body — they are raised above this Animal & sensual to a spiritual and divine life — They are no more under the government of earthly passions — nor guided and conducted by their former inclinations — Their hearts are weaned from the pleasures of sense — Their affections are taken from the riches of this material Earth — they have holy Indifference to the gratifications of Animal Nature — any rather than they have a tendency to promote the glory of God, and the important business of life —

3. They Indeed Eat and Drink — but accord ing to the
said Rule of temperance — that they may be strengthened
and refreshed for the service of God, — they perform the
common functions of life in obedience to the divine Com-
mand, & that they may discharge the Duties of their
Respective Stations —

4. At Death they shall be delivered from all these marks
of Weakness and Mortality — & their Spiritual Nature shall
be raised to the highest degree of purity & Perfection —

III Christ Jesus Arose to an Incorruptible & Immortal State —

1. When he shook off the bonds of Death — he took a final
farewell of the Grave, and arose to live with God
for ever & ever — Christ being raised from the Dead saith
the Scriptures didst no more — Death hath no more the
dominion over him. — I am he that liveth — and was
dead with our offended Lord, & Behold I am alive
forevermore —

2. And this my B. is One Signal Advantage which the
S. derive from S. their glorified head — The life which
Christ bestows upon them in the day of their Regenera-
tion is an Incorruptible and Immortal — That Spark of heaven
which is kindled in their Souls, shall never be extinguished
by all the contrivances of Hell & Hell — — That Seed of
grace which is implanted in their hearts — shall be
preserved amidst a thousand dangers to which it is con-
tinually Exposed, and shall bring forth the fruit of glory
in the Paradio above —

4 That Life which we receive from Adam is frail & uncertain - liable to a perpetual Change & will certainly quickly End in Death - But that Life which we receive from the Second Adam is of an unperishing Nature -

It consists in untiring Strength and Vigour -

5. Of this we have the highest Assurance, for our Saviour ^{has} tell us - that whosoever believeth in him shall never but hath passed from Death to Life -

6. This you will perhaps say contradicts the common Observation and Experience of mankind - Are not

the 1st of the most high as liable to the Stroke of Death ^{as} as the Servants of Satan - are they not liable to the same Accidents do they not fall by the same ^{causes} ^{Guines} diseases with the common herd of mankind -

7. No My B. The Experience of mankind do not contradict the promise of Our Saviour - He does not speak of that Life which we receive from the Birth of Nature - but that which Supernatural Grace implants in our Souls - This does not flow from our corruptible Nature, but the Unchangeable fountain of life - It does not reside in the Body which was formed of the dust of the Earth but in the Soul which is of divine Origin - It is not subject to the Alterations of time but continues forever & Ever -

IV. Christ Arise - not to dwell upon Earth but to live in Heaven - he shook of the dishonours of the Grave that he might Ascend up to glory - & sit down at the Right hand of his heavenly Father -

1. He continued Indeed a few days upon Earth, to assure his Disciples of the Certainty of his Resurrection — to instruct them in the Mystery of the Kingdom of God — & prepare them for the Successful Propagation of the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth —
2. After these things, he took fare well of this miserable Earth — ascended triumphant, to the mansions of Glory — to receive the Adorations of Angels — & the joyful Hallelujahs of the whole company of Redeemed Sinners —
3. And Indeed, Why should he continue any longer, here below, when he had accomplished the work, he had undertaken, & executed the commission he received from his heavenly Father — Why should the Prince of Life — reside in these Regions of Death — The Land of Gloom, in the Word of darkness & Misery — The Holy One of Israel in these melancholly Abodes of Vice and Corruption — It was not fit that the Sun of Righteousness should always suffer an Eclipse — That the Supreme Monarch of the Universe, should continue long in a State of Poverty and disgrace — That the King of Heaven should always abide upon Earth, amidst the Disorders and Confusions and disorders of this mortal State — — — As he descended from Heaven, so it was necessary, that he should return thither again — that he might receive the Rewards of his Sufferings — & finish the designs of his Redemptory Grace —

4. In this instance also, every true Believer is confirmed, to
the example of his exalted Lord — When God regenerates
us by his Spirit, it is to prepare us for the habitation
of heaven — he leaves ^{us} ~~them~~ upon Earth, only for a few
days — that ^{we} ~~they~~ may finish the work, which is begun
^{us} ~~them~~, & be gradually made meet for the inheritance
of the saints in light — yet a little while, and he
will translate us from the miseries of this sinful
world to the unspeakable felicity of the Paradise
of God — where we shall dwell in the presence of our
Adorable Redeemer — be perfectly conformed to
his Divine Image — & spend an Eternity in celebrating
the virtues of his Grace —

You see then my B. in what respects, true Believers
are joined with γ , & what a summing up of our
relationship to our B. Jesus the Great Head of his Church
and unto that and the members of his mystical Body
— what joy

Truly what improvement and we to make of
this subject — What must we draw, from these
important truths —

I. From what we have heard we must know — &
we have no Union with γ ! — No Communion in
the Benefits of his Death — except we have expienced
the power of his Resurrection — It is the Universal Cha-
racter of all true Christians — that are joined with γ
& walk before him in newness of life
1. Examine your selves then O Professors of the Gospel —

Have you rep'd under a Regenerating Change - Are
you made partakers of a New and Divine life -
- Are not many of you to this day, dead in trespasses &
Sins - and lying in the grave of Vice and Corruption -
2. Let Conscience Speak and Testify to its faithful
dictator - Have you felt the misery of an Slave state -
- are you concerned for your Immortal Soul -
do you use indefatigable diligence to provide for
a future and Eternal World -
3. Do you hearken to the Calls of Indulgent Grace -
do you, in Obedience to the command of God, give up
your selves Accept the offer of your compassionate
Saviour - Do you as those that are alive from the
dead devote your selves to his service & God forever -
4. Are you humbled under his fatherly Chastisement -
thankful for his Innumerable Mercies - Inspired with
a love of his Amiable Precepts - Animated with an
Ardent Zeal for his honour and glory -
5. Do you mourn for your daily Violations of his laws -
- do you groan after deliverance from the corruption
of your Nature - do you fly to the blood of Christ to
cleanse you from the guilt of Sin - do you endeavour
in the strength of divine Grace to make increasing
progress in all ways of Righteousness and holiness -
6. These are the Characters of a living Christian - These
the marks of those, of those who are united to Christ
& made partakers of the power of his Resurrection -
If therefore you are destitute of these Marks - What
shall I say - O Melancholly Meurons - You are dead

to the things of God & if you continue in this Millen-
condition - in a little while you must suffer the terri-
ble pains of Eternal Death - If you are blind to things
of a spiritual Nature - Deaf to the promises and threat-
nings contained in the word of God - & Insensible to
the hopes and fear of a future World - If
your minds are taken up with the business and Plea-
sures of this transitory world - If you sleep calmly
in a state of Guilt and Iniquity - If you can
rejoice in the satisfactions and enjoyments of this
world your souls remain under the Wrath of an
avenging God - This is an undoubted Evidence, that
you are under the Dominion of Spiritual Death -
& consequently that as yet - No Gospel in the hearts
of &c - Have never felt the power of his Redeeming Grace
7. Consider then O Sinners how great is your misery
while you continue in these deplorable circumstances -
How earnestly should you Cry - to the Father of Mercies
to the fountain of life and light - that he
would make bare the arm of his Almighty Power -
that he would display the Victory of his Incomprehensible
Grace - to raise you from the grave of corruption
- and make you with a divine life - & cause you
to conform to the Image of your adorable Redeemer -
O Compassionate Saviour, thou hast commissioned
^{thy ministers} to Preach to these dry Bones - In Obedience to
thy Command we elevate our voices - & we trust that
thou wilt raise from the dead that we may give them life

But Lord, we address our selves to Infinite Merits
and Honor—except thou Accompany our Exhortations wth
the sacred Energy of thy Spirit ——— It is thy Voice alone
that can Awaken the sleeping Dead — I cannot
scout of the corrupted Remors of Mortal Sinners
Thine in upon their benighted Souls O thou B. Son
of Righteousness — Let them hear the Agreeable
Voice of thy Grace — Soften their hard & obdurate
Impenitent heart — Subdue their obstinate &
Rebellious Will — Triumph over their criminal Pre-
judices & which they are held in Captivity to Sin &
Satan — That peacefully they may live to thy Glory
& the Salvation of their precious & Immortal Souls —

II. I shall finish my discourse with a short Address to
those that are made partakers of thy divine Love —
I What more suitable Exhortation can I bring unto
you than that of the Apostle in the Words of my
text — If ye be Vision with us seek those things &c.

1. Let the Men of this World, whose passion is in the
flesh, Amuse them selves, with the Vanities of this
transitory and Perishing world — As for us O Christians
Our God & Saviour — Our Head and Husband —
our friends and Acquaintance — Our Portion
and Inheritance is in Heaven —

2. Let us then continually pursue after, the business
Employment and joyful mirth of this Blessed World
Let them the daily language of our souls be — When
shall I see the face of my God, in the labourer of
the righteous — When shall I appear in the temple

Character of my Redeemed Children — When shall I
^{shine} appear in all the beauties of the divine Image —
3. O Miserable Earth what hast thou, to Engage my Thoughts
to Captivate my Affections — That art a Valley of
tears — a Theatre of Contention — a Melancholy Abode
of Death and Misery — My pleasures are an empty
dream — My honors gilded toys — My treasures but thin
heaps of perishing dust —

4. Turn ye your hearts from O Children from the Earth
which is blasted with the curse of heaven — a Place of
banishment to the Chosen of God — the habitation of
Rebellious Sinners — Let us place our Affections on
heaven, Our Native home — the Kingdom prepared
for us from the foundation of the World —

5. This will be a convincing Evidence, that we are One
with Christ from the Death of Sin — & a N. Assurance that
we shall partake with him of the triumphs of his
exalted state — In the Approaching day of the Resurrection
all this mortal shall put on Immortality
this corruptible shall put on incorruption — &
both body and soul be conformed to the Image of the
Son of God — With him we shall take Eternal farewell
of the Misery & disorder of this mortal state —
& ascend to the triumphant into the highest Heaven
to live & reign with him in Eternal glory —

To W. H.

AMEN —