

## Sermon outline notes: John Chapter 20 vv 1-28

### Introduction

The pyramids of Egypt, the cattle of India and an upturned wine glass—what have they got in common? They have in common man's desire for immortality. The Bible emphatically rejects all forms of occultism and points instead to Jesus Christ—He alone brought life and immortality to light; He has risen from the dead.

### (1) The nature of Christian hope—the mystery of the Resurrection.

- (a) Grave clothes—it seemed that Jesus had risen straight through them! They have been left behind like a collapsed folded cocoon.
- (b) A body no longer bound by physical barriers.
- (c) A body clearly recognisable.
- (d) An immortal body but with the evidence of a mortal history "A body with a memory".
- (e) A "prototype" body, see Phil 3 vv 20-21.

There is great comfort for us in what we know of Jesus' resurrection and the knowledge that one day we shall have such an existence also.

### (2) The sign of the Resurrection vv 29ff

- (a) Christianity did not begin with an idea, but with an event. Its first preachers were not intellectuals expounding a theory, they were eyewitnesses to facts.
- (b) We cannot 'see' but we are called to believe on the basis of their eye witness testimony. Faith for us who come after the Apostles comes through hearing the word of their testimony. We are not to demand a sign, we are to believe the testimony, we are to examine the evidence.

### Points To Ponder

- (1) "The Gospel without the Resurrection is not merely a Gospel without its final chapter; it is not a gospel at all." To what extent would you agree with this comment? Explain your reasons.
- (2) What does Paul mean in Romans 4 v 25?
- (3) Are there any aspects of the Resurrection about which you are unsure? Share them with your group.

### Notes