

*“For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”* 1 Corinthians 15:16-17 (NASU)

### WHY IS THE RESURRECTION SO IMPORTANT?

***The resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of the Christian message.*** Without the resurrection, Jesus’ ministry ends in defeat and disillusionment (Luke 24:21). But everything changes if *“He is not here! He has risen from the dead, just as He said”* (Matthew 28:6).

The resurrection is at the center of redemption itself. Without it, one can only pity Jesus as a dead martyr whose lofty ideals were sadly misunderstood. With it ... one must stand in awe of the exalted Messiah, the Son of the living God, who gave His life as a ransom for many, who presently reigns at God’s right hand, and who will one day return in glory to fix this broken world!

In 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Paul stated bluntly ... that apart from the resurrection our faith and message are in vain. Thinking about how absolutely bleak and pointless any so-called **“Christian”** life would be without the resurrection should spur us to ponder it all the more:

***Without the resurrection ... Jesus’ death would go without divine interpretation and endorsement.*** The resurrection amounts to the Father’s clear signal that Jesus is the powerful Son of God who has conquered death and reigns as Lord of all (Romans 1:4; 4:25).

- ***The resurrection demonstrates that Jesus’ “blood of the new covenant” saves His people from their sins.*** Apart from the resurrection, there would be no reason for the cup of memorial at the Lord’s Table because there would be no reason to anticipate the cup of new wine in the Father’s Kingdom (Matthew 26:28).

***Without the resurrection ... none of Jesus’ promises would be trustworthy.*** If Jesus did not rise from the dead after promising many times that He would do so (Matthew 12:40; 16:21; 17:9, 23, 20:19; 26:32), He should be pitied or scorned, not believed and obeyed.

**Without the resurrection ... there would be no apostolic foundation for the church** (Matthew 16:18). Jesus' resurrection turned scattered deserters back into faithful followers (Matthew 26:31-32). The astonishing-yet-true news brought to them by the two women who first discovered the empty tomb and later by the risen Lord Jesus Himself brought the scattered disciples back into the fold and emboldened them for witness (Matthew 28:7, 10, 16-20). **That same resurrection message is still powerful to transform doubters into disciples today!**

**Without the resurrection ... there would be no model of sacrificial living.** Jesus embodied and demonstrated *the oxymoron of the crucified life* ... that a self-centered life is misery, and that genuinely abundant living occurs only when one dies to self-interest (Matthew 10:38-39; 16:24-28; 20:26-28; 23:12).

Paul developed this further, teaching us that Jesus' followers died with Him to the old life and arose with Him to life anew (Romans 6:1-11). **But this transformative model of the cross leading to the crown is a farce ... if Jesus' suffering did not lead to His resurrection and heavenly reign.**

- Paul's basis for teaching the Philippians to live in humility and unity is simply to tell the story of Jesus, centering on how His past humility led to His future exaltation (Philippians 2:1-13).

**Without the resurrection ... there would be no eschatological shalom to right all earthly wrongs and renew the world** (Matthew 19:28-29). The martyrs whose blood cries out from the ground for justice would never be vindicated (Matthew 23:35; Revelation 6:9-11).

**Without the resurrection ...** the untold millions of injustices perpetrated by human beings throughout history would never be made right. There would be no ultimate reckoning for sin, and Satan would win the cosmic battle. But the resurrection guarantees ... that the disciples' model prayer will be answered ... the will of God will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). By raising Jesus, God showed all people that they will ultimately answer to Him for what they have done (Matthew 16:27; John 5:28-29; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

*"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the first-fruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." - 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 (NKJV)*

## **10 Reasons the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is Important**

- 1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that believers are justified before God.***
  - Romans 4:23-25; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ shows that Jesus defeated death.***
  - Romans 6:23; Acts 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57
- 3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that believers are united with Christ.***
  - 2 Corinthians 4:14; Romans 6:8-9
- 4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ confirms the truth of Scripture.***
  - Isaiah 53; Matthew 12:40
- 5. The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves the gospel to be true.***
  - 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- 6. The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that Jesus is the Son of God.***
  - Romans 1:4; Revelation 1:18
- 7. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that God the Father will give His Holy Spirit to believers.***
  - Acts 2:33

After Christ had risen and ascended, He sent the promised Holy Spirit to continue His work on earth. This means that Christ's earthly ministry continues today through His people, in whom He dwells by the Holy Spirit. This also means that Christ will help His people by the Spirit ... strengthening them, convicting them, guiding them into the life that God desires!

- 8. The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives Christians a living hope.***
  - 1 Peter 1:3-4
- 9. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that we will be raised like Him.***
  - 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
- 10. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that Christ will judge the world in righteousness.***
  - Acts 17:30-31;

### **The Path to Eternal Life**

The way to obtain eternal life ... is by believing in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ ... and turning from your sin and to Him. ***Believing in Jesus is what makes all of the benefits of the resurrection yours!***