

20200412 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Why the Resurrection is Important

Resurrection Sunday April 12, 2020

Why the Resurrection is Important

1 Without a resurrection, all that we believe in would be folly/foolishness.

¹² 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? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. (NIV 1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

2 It validates Who Jesus is.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is also important because it validates who Jesus claimed to be. Who was He exactly?

Jesus claimed He was the "ancient of days".

John 8:58-59: "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds."

This is a double claim from Jesus: 1) that He pre-existed His human birth and was actually alive and present (as God) before Abraham; and 2) that His title was "I am" -- which was the same title used for Yahweh in Exodus 3:14.

The disciple John declared that Jesus was from the beginning of time. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God..... and He became flesh and dwelt among us.

Jesus claimed deity saying He and the Father are One and the Same

John 10:30-33: *"I and the Father are one." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, 'I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?' 'We are not stoning you for any of these,' replied the Jews, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.'"*

His disciples worshipped Him and Jesus did not stop them from doing so

John 20:27-29: *"Then He said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.' Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!' Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"*

Thomas realized, because of Jesus' resurrection, who Jesus really was. This led to His confession and identification of Jesus as "My Lord and my God!"

3 Without a resurrection there is no hope for our own resurrection.

When Jesus said, "[I am the resurrection and the life](#)" ([John 11:25](#)), He is claiming to be both our life and our resurrection. Life and resurrection are in Him and only in Him. Apart from Him there is no resurrection from earthly dying. Apart from Him there is no eternal life. In Him we have both.

Death and corruption had no power over Jesus. He includes each of us who believe in Him in that eternal life and in that victory. We who have placed our faith and hope in Jesus the Christ will each experience a glorious resurrection.

¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11)

4 The resurrection is important because it differentiates our faith from all other faiths and religions in the world. All other religions are based on teachers or prophets who have remained in the grave. They're still there. I have gone over many times all of the reasons that we know and can argue that the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah truly happened. It was an historical event.

We serve a risen Savior. It may seem sometimes like He is distant from us and does not hear us, but He does. He has put His Holy Spirit into each of us to comfort us and guide us.

