

I. THE RESURRECTION

- A. "The resurrection is like the sunrise after the darkest night. On Thursday, darkness seemed to win. On Saturday, all hope appeared buried in a tomb. But on Sunday morning, the Son rose, proving that sin had been conquered, death had been defeated, and every promise of God in Christ was true."
1. "The resurrection is God's 'Amen' to Christ's declaration, 'It is finished.'" -Adrian Rogers
 2. The resurrection is the Father's declaration that sin has been paid for, death has been defeated, Satan has been disarmed, and Jesus Christ is Lord of all.

II. WHY IS THE RESURRECTION IN ESSENTIAL TO THE FAITH?

- A. Christ's resurrection is one of the most important essentials, if not *the* primary essential, because it is so foundational to all we believe as disciples of Jesus Christ. *Without the resurrection of Christ, we are without hope for eternal life.*
- B. Paul makes it clear in his letter to the Corinthians why it is essential:
1. ***¹² Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. ¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. ¹⁶ For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.***

III. WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION PROCLAIM THAT MAKES IT ESSENTIAL?

1. IT VALIDATES JESUS' IDENTITY

- a) The resurrection is God's public declaration that Jesus is exactly who He claimed to be, the Son of God, Messiah, Lord Savior, and Judge.

(1) "Declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." -Romans 1:4

2. IT VALIDATES THAT HIS WORDS WERE TRUE

- a) **"From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things... and be killed, and be raised the third day."— Matthew 16:21**
- b) **"Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said."— John 2:22**
- c) The resurrection of Jesus was the central message of the early church and the primary target of its persecution. Religious leaders sought to silence the apostles because the resurrection vindicated Jesus' claims, confirmed His lordship, and declared Him to be the risen King.

(1) Being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead."— Acts 4:2

(2) "And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all."— Acts 4:33

3. IT VALIDATES THAT HE IS ALIVE AND REIGNS AS LORD

- a) **"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."— Matthew 28:6**

b) ***"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."— Revelation 1:18***

4. CONFIRMS THAT THE GOSPEL IS TRUE

a) The resurrection is at the very center of the gospel message.

(1) "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."-1 Corinthians 15:3-4

5. CONFIRMS HE IS THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS POWER TO SAVE

a) ²⁵ ***who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.***-Rom 4:25

6. CONFIRMS HE HAS POWER OVER DEATH AND ALL HIS ENEMIES

a) ***"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***-1 Corinthians 15:55-57

7. CONFIRMS JESUS' DEATH WAS A SATISFACTORY PAYMENT

a) The resurrection is God's declaration that the payment for sin has been fully accepted. When Jesus rose from the dead, the Father publicly vindicated His Son and demonstrated that the debt of sin had been paid, His justice had been satisfied, and all who trust in Christ can now be justified before God.

8. CONFIRMS THE SAVED WILL BE RESURRECTED PHYSICALLY

a) ***"And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."— John 6:40***

- b) ***"He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."*— John 6:54**
- c) ***"But now Christ has risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."*— 1 Corinthians 15:20**
- d) ***"For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."*— 1 Corinthians 15:52**
- e) ***"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."*— 1 Thessalonians 4:16**
- f) ***"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life."*— Daniel 12:2**
- g) ***"Your dead shall live together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust."*—Isaiah 26:19**

9. CONFIRMS OUR FAITH IN CHRIST IS REAL

- a) ***"And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." -1 Corinthians 15:17***

10. DISTINGUISHES CHRISTIANITY FROM EVERY OTHER RELIGION

- a) No other major world religion claims that its founder was bodily raised from the dead, never to die again, and now reigns as Lord in the way Christianity claims about Jesus.

(1) He appeared to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as though to one born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also.-1 Cor 15:5-8

IV. JESUS' RESURRECTION PROVES THERE WILL BE A JUDGEMENT

- A. The resurrection is God's decisive proof that Jesus is Lord and Judge of all humanity
1. ³⁰ ***Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.*** -Acts 17:30-31
- B. The resurrection of Christ assures us that a day of righteous judgment is coming. By raising Jesus from the dead, God has appointed Him as the Judge of all the earth and guaranteed that evil, injustice, sin, and death will not have the final word.

V. THE RESURRECTION PROVES A RESTORATION IS COMING

- A. The resurrection gives us more than the hope of our own future resurrection; it gives us the certainty that we will be raised into a renewed creation where righteousness dwells, God's glory fills the earth, and His perfect justice reigns forever. Because Christ is risen, we know that both the resurrection of the saints and the restoration of all things are sure.
1. ¹⁹ ***For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. -Rom 8:19-21***
 2. ²⁰ ***and that He may send Jesus Christ, (Peter says this after Jesus rose making the claim that He is alive and is returning) who was preached to you before, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things,*** -Acts 19:20-21
 3. ¹⁵ ***For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*** -Rom 8:15