


“THE TRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION” (I Corinthians 15:1-8) April 12, 2020
Life question: *How do I know that Jesus really rose from the dead?*
The point: *The resurrection of Christ is a historical fact?*
I. “CHRIST DIED” (I Corinthians 15:1-3) [Ref. Passages: Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:18; Isa. 53:10-12]

- The truth never loses its power, but people often lose their grip on the truth. The absolute truth of God’s Word should never be a point of negotiation to question our belief and faith in Jesus Christ. **Questions:** *If you had to list the true non-negotiables of your faith, where would you start?*
- Every claim relative to Christianity has its foundation in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who was born of a virgin without the assistance of sinful man
- Isaiah prophesied that **Immanuel**, *God with us*, Jesus, who was born sinless, the spotless, acceptable sacrifice of God, our Redeemer, who makes intercession for us, would be put to death. (**Isa. 53:10-12**)
- Apostle John, the disciple Jesus loved, witnessed Jesus as an adult while on His Father’s mission. (**I John 1:1-4**)
- John declares that apostles saw Jesus, fully God and fully man, living, walking, breathing, and even touching Him. Jesus has always been God—His, birth, death nor resurrection made Him God. (**Jn. 14:9; Jn. 12:32-33**).
- Jesus died but no one killed Him, Jesus laid down His life and He took up His life again in the resurrection, on His own accord, demonstrating His sovereignty over all because He is God. (**Jn. 10:17-28**)

Introspective Question: *Why should we, as believers, celebrate the resurrection every day, not just on Easter?*

Spiritual Truths: If Jesus had not died, there could be no resurrection, no gospel, no Good News (hope of salvation). God’s work of reconciliation began after Adam and Eve’s sin in the *Garden of Eden* (**John 19:30**). Animal sacrifices were under the Law. Jesus, the ultimate sacrifice, is under God’s grace. Therefore Jesus could say “*It is finished*” as He gave up the ghost (died); His death accomplished our redemption—signifying our sin debt “*paid in full*.” The basis of Christianity is God’s grace and Christ’s death for sin. (**Galatians 2:21**)

II. “CHRIST WAS RESURRECTED” (I Corinthians 15:4)

- The central theme of the gospel is given in the fact that Jesus was resurrected from the dead—if there had not been a resurrection there would be no Gospel. The key defense of Christianity, points to **three facts**:
1. **Christ died for our sins according to Scriptures:** (**I Cor. 15:17-18; Ps. 16:8-11; Isa. 53:5-9; Rev. 13:8; Jn. 3:15**)
The death of Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God, was no accident, no afterthought. Jesus’ death had been a part of God’s plan from the foundation of the world, to bring about salvation and eternal life to all who believe on His Son Jesus. (**John 3:15**)
 2. **Jesus was Buried according to Scriptures:** The fact of Jesus’ death is revealed in Him being buried. (**Matt. 27:38, 57-60**)
 3. **Jesus was Raised on the third day according to Scriptures:** Jesus was raised from the dead permanently by His Father, the living God “on the third day,” according to the Gospels (according to Jewish reckoning of time). Jesus verified the length of time for the Jewish leaders that He would remain dead as the only sign they would see, the sign of the prophet Jonah. (**Matthew 12:38-40**)

III. “CHRIST WAS SEEN ALIVE BY MANY” (I Cor. 15:5-8)

- Paul’s list of those who saw Jesus after the Resurrection: Paul (not an original disciple) sees Jesus on the Damascus Road (**Acts 9:3-5**); The eleven apostles (Judas hung himself after betraying Jesus; 500 other witnesses, would give the most obtuse doubter pause. James, Jesus’ half-brother did not believe that He was the Messiah. (**Mk. 6:3; Jn. 7:5; Acts 1:14**))

Introspective Questions: *How real is your encounter with Jesus? What eyewitness testimony can you give about Jesus? What have you seen Him do in your life? Whom can you tell?*

Spiritual Truths:

- There will always be those who say that Jesus did not rise from the dead; seeking to deny Him of His divinity with God. Those who seek to discredit the Resurrection have only hopelessness and despair to offer those who listen.
- Jesus is God (**Rev 1:17-18** --denying His divinity with God) and the reason that we need to celebrate the Resurrection every day because we need Jesus to make intercession for us on a daily bases (**Romans 8:34**) which would not happen if He had not been resurrected and returned to the right hand of the Father
- The truth of Jesus’ resurrection is the foundation of our salvation and gives us the hope of our own resurrection to live eternally with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (**Ro. 8:11; Ro. 10:9**)
- Having this hope of our own resurrection, should motivate all believers to go and tell of the goodness of Jesus in our lives that others too might have this hope. We should be like Paul, who was willing to suffer, to do whatever was necessary, “*if by any means*,” to obtain the Hope of the Resurrection--Jesus. (**Phil. 3:10-11**)

