

Why the Resurrection Matters
1 Corinthians 15:20-28, 54-58

The Question: Why does the resurrection matter to me? **Point:** The resurrection of Christ changes everything.

Memory Verse: *But thanks be unto God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:57)*

Introduction to Unit: This unit consists of only two lessons: 1) The Truth of the Resurrection, which was last Sunday's lesson; and 2) Why the Resurrection Matters, which is today's lesson. The resurrection stands as the focal point of the Christian faith, knowing the answers to these two questions is vital. Knowing the answers to these questions turns the fortune in our history. The resurrection is history's greatest reversal of fortune. The resurrection changed everything. God, the great King, sent His Son to die on a cross, but death could not hold Jesus in the tomb. He rose from the dead, and the fortune of the entire human race reversed on one Sunday morning! Hallelujah!

Definition: Resurrection: anastasis: ἀνάστασις, εως, ἢ a standing up, a raising up, rising (Strong's Concordance, 386)

Romans 10:9 (ESV) - *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

I. Christ's Resurrection Makes Our Own Resurrection Possible (1 Cor. 15:20-22)

Scripture References: *Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how is it that ^[c]some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain [useless, amounting to nothing], and your faith is also vain [imaginary, unfounded, devoid of value and benefit—not based on truth]. ¹⁵ We are even discovered to be false witnesses [misrepresenting] God, because we testified concerning Him that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, 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 worthless and powerless [mere delusion]; you are still in your sins [and under the control and penalty of sin]. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If we who are [abiding] in Christ have hoped only in this life [and this is all there is], then we are of all people most miserable and to be pitied. (1 Cor. 15:12-19, AMP; Ro. 8:22-23, AMP; Heb. 13:14, TLB) Do you believe this? (John 11:24-26, ESV)*

¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; ¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

(Philippians 3:10-11, KJV)

Question: Why does the resurrection matter to you?

Spiritual Truth: While Adam's sin stole our hope Jesus's death and resurrection gave us back our hope.

II. Christ's Resurrection Means He Reigns as Lord Over All (1 Cor. 15:23-28)

Scripture Reference: *(Acts 4:24-26, AMP; Matthew 28:18, AMP; (Philippians 2:9-11, AMP)*

Question: Knowing that Christ reigns as Lord overall, what should your friends, family, coworkers, church family notice about you?

Spiritual Truth: Everyone has a decision to make believe in the resurrection of Christ and worship Him now, or reject the resurrection and perish, and bow later. But in the end every knee shall bow.

III. Victory in Christ Means What We Do for Him Matters (1 Cor. 15:54-58)

Scripture References: *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31, KJV); Ga. 6:9-10; Eph. 2:10)*

Question: Since salvation is a gift from God by grace through faith and not by works, why does what we do for Him matter?

Spiritual Truth: It is not what we do in our own limitations that matter; but it is what we allow Christ to do through us that really matters.

