

2-2-26

THE RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

Text: 1 Corinthians 15 (NIV)

Opening Prayer:

**Father God,
We come before You with grateful hearts. We ask now that Your Holy Spirit would open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to Your truth. As we open Your Word, help us to understand not just what You have said...but what it means for our lives today. Let the truth of the resurrection stir our faith, strengthen our hope, and transform the way we live. We give You all the glory, honor, and praise. In Jesus' mighty name we pray,
Amen.**

Introduction: Why the Resurrection Matters

If I asked the average person, “*What is Christianity about?*” many would answer:

- “Be a good person.”
- “Go to church.”
- “Love your neighbor.”

But **Christianity does not stand or fall on moral teaching.**

It stands or falls on “**one historical event**”:



The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

The apostle Paul makes it clear in

1 Corinthians 15 that if the resurrection did not happen, nothing else matters...but if it did happen, everything changes.

Paul is writing to the church in Corinth, a city deeply influenced by Greek philosophy. Many Greeks believed the body was evil and the soul was good, so they struggled with the idea of a bodily resurrection. Some believers had begun to doubt whether resurrection was even possible.

So Paul addresses the issue head-on.

I. The Resurrection Is the Foundation of the Gospel

Turn to 1 Corinthians Chapter 15...

(1 Corinthians 15:1–4)NIV Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance^[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Notice something important:

The gospel is not just that **Jesus died**.
The gospel includes that **Jesus was raised**.

Paul lists four historical realities:

1. Christ **died**
2. He was **buried**
3. He was **raised**
4. This all happened **according to Scripture**

Christianity is not a myth or a philosophy...it is **rooted in real events.**

Historical Fact

The burial confirms Jesus truly died.

The resurrection confirms death did not win.

Modern example:

If someone tells you, "I paid your mortgage," but the bank still calls...you doubt it.

But if the debt is cleared and the statement says **PAID IN FULL**, that changes everything.

The resurrection is God's receipt saying:

"Sin has been paid for completely."

II. The Resurrection Is Supported by Eyewitness Evidence

(1 Corinthians 15:5–8)

Paul lists eyewitnesses:

- . Peter
- . The Twelve
- . Over **500 people at once**
- . James
- . Paul himself

1 Corinthians 15:6 ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

Paul is essentially saying:
“Go ask them.”

Historical Reality

The resurrection was preached **in the same city where Jesus was crucified**, within weeks of the event. If the tomb were occupied, Christianity would have died immediately.

Modern example:

No one risks imprisonment, torture, and death for something they know is a lie.

Yet the apostles did exactly that.

The resurrection **turned cowards into martyrs**.

III. If There Is No Resurrection, Faith Is Useless

(1 Corinthians 15:12–19)

Paul uses strong language:

1 Corinthians 15:12 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?

1 Corinthians 15:14 ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

Without the resurrection:

- . Preaching is pointless
- . Faith is empty
- . Sin is undefeated
- . The dead are lost
- . Christians are worthless

Christianity without resurrection is **wishful thinking**, not truth.

Modern example:

A bridge that looks solid but collapses when you step on or drive over... it is worse than no bridge at all.

The resurrection is the **load-bearing pillar** of the Christian faith.

IV. But Christ HAS Been Raised

(1 Corinthians 15:20–23)

1 Corinthians 15:20²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

“Firstfruits” comes from Jewish harvest imagery. The first portion of the harvest guaranteed the rest was coming.

Because Jesus rose:

- . Death is defeated!!!
- . Eternity is secured!!!
- . Our future resurrection is guaranteed!!!

Adam vs Christ

1 Corinthians 15:22 ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Adam brought death.
Jesus brings life.

V. The Resurrection Changes Our Future Bodies

(1 Corinthians 15:35–44)

Paul answers the question:

1 Corinthians 15:35 ³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?”

He explains:

- What is **perishable** becomes **imperishable**
- What is **weak** becomes **powerful**
- What is **earthly** becomes **glorious**

This is not reincarnation.

This is **restoration and transformation.**

Modern example:

Like planting a seed...the plant is connected to the seed but far greater than it.

VI. The Resurrection Removes the Fear of Death

(1 Corinthians 15:50–57)

1 Corinthians 15:55 ⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory?”

Where, O death, is your sting?”

Death still exists...but it has lost its authority.

For believers:

- . Death is not a prison
- . It is a doorway
- . Not defeat...but promotion

Modern example:

A wasp without a stinger can buzz...but it can't harm.

Death can make noise, but it cannot destroy the believer.

VII. The Resurrection Changes How We Live Today

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Paul ends with application:

1 Corinthians 15:58 ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

As we close today here is my question to you...Do You Know Jesus Today?

If you do not know Jesus Christ today, the most important truth you can understand is this: **God loves you deeply, right where you are.** He created you for a relationship with Him, but sin has separated every one of us from God. No amount of good works, religion, or effort can remove that separation.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for your sins and mine, and rose again from the dead. His resurrection proves that sin and death have been defeated. Salvation is not something you earn...it is a **free gift of grace** received by **faith**.

To be **born again** means to place your trust fully in Jesus Christ alone...to turn from sin and self-rule, and to surrender your life to Him. When you believe in your heart by faith and confess Jesus as Lord, God forgives your sins, gives you new life, and makes you His child forever.

Let us Pray:

Prayer of Salvation

**Heavenly Father,
I come to You knowing that I am a sinner
and that I cannot save myself. I believe
that Jesus Christ is Your Son, that He
died on the cross for my sins, and that
He rose again from the dead. Today, I
turn away from my sin and place my
trust in Jesus alone.**

**Jesus, I ask You to forgive me, to
cleanses me, and to come into my life as
my Lord and Savior. I surrender my life
to You. Thank You for Your grace, Your
mercy, and the gift of eternal life. From
this day forward, I choose to follow You.**

**In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen.**