

**He is Risen**  
**April 20, 2014**  
By Keith Steele

**What the world calls Easter Sunday, we call Resurrection Sunday. It is on this day that we remember the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Most people know that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. They know that he was buried in the tomb of a rich man and that after 3 days he rose again.**

**But, what if he had never left the tomb?**

**What if the women who went to his tomb that morning went there and found his body just as they expected to?**

**Mark 16:1 And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.**

**Mark 16:2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.**

**Mark 16:3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher?**

**Mark 16:4** And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

**Mark 16:5** And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

**Mark 16:6** And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

**Those words “He is risen; he is not here” are the words that are part of the very foundation of our Christian faith.**

**If Christ didn't rise from the dead, the time you spend here today would be a total waste of time, this church would be a social club with nothing more to offer you than activities to fill your free time, and “The Basic Bible Truths” classes that we teach would be six one hour classes of useless, trivial facts about an old book.**

**What makes the fact that Jesus rose again from the dead so important to our Christian faith?**

**What happens if there is no resurrection of the dead?**

**How do we even know that Jesus rose from the dead, and if he did, what does that mean to you?**

**What are the**

### **I. Consequences of no resurrection**

**In order to understand the importance of the resurrection to you as believers you first have to realize what it would mean if Jesus was still in the tomb when it was visited that morning. Because, if Jesus was still in the tomb then we would know that he never rose from the dead after three days.**

**If he didn't rise from the dead then every preacher for the last 2100 years has been wasting his time telling people about heaven.**

**If Jesus didn't rise from the dead then those who have put their trust in Christ have no hope for eternity, their sins are not forgiven and we are wasting our time telling the world a lie in a world full of liars.**

**Paul says in**

**1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.**

**1 Corinthians 15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have**

testified of God that he raised up Christ:  
whom he raised not up, if so be that the  
dead rise not.

**1 Corinthians 15:16** For if the dead rise not,  
then is not Christ raised:

**1 Corinthians 15:17** And if Christ be not  
raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your  
sins.

**1 Corinthians 15:18** Then they also which  
are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

**1 Corinthians 15:19** If in this life only we  
have hope in Christ, we are of all men most  
miserable.

Paul tells us that if we have no hope of  
eternal life with Jesus, we, as Christians,  
are the most miserable people there is.

Paul was a Pharisee of the Pharisees. He  
was respected, admired and well educated.  
He gave up all of that to begin preaching  
Christ. He went from persecuting  
Christians to becoming a persecuted  
Christian.

He asks the Corinthians:

**1 Corinthians 15:32** If after the manner of  
men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus,  
what advantageth it me, if the dead rise

**not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.**

**There was something that caused the Apostle Paul as well as the other Apostles to give up everything they had and follow Jesus.**

**They could have lived a life of comfort but instead they suffered a life of persecution for their efforts. They were beaten and imprisoned and some were finally executed**

**Down through the ages, countless lives have been changed, and many who only heard of Jesus through preaching and the Bible have given their lives in both the figurative and the literal sense trusting in the promises of this “One Book.”**

**What proof is there that Jesus Rose from the Dead?**

**As we look at some of the:**

### **III. The Proof of the Resurrection**

**Let us first look at prophecy**

#### **A. The Resurrection was prophesied**

## 1. in the Old Testament by King David in the Psalms

**Psalms 49:15** But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me.

**Psalms 16:10** For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; ...

**Psalms 86:13** ...and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

## 2. In the New Testament by Jesus Himself

### a. After the transfiguration

**Matthew 17:9** And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, **Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.**

**Matthew 26:31** Then saith Jesus unto them, **All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.**

**Matthew 26:32** **But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.**

Next we see that

### B. The resurrection was promised

**Jesus himself promised the disciples that he would return from the dead and that whoever believes or trusts in him will have eternal life.**

**John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**

**John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

**John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

**John 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.**

**John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:**

**John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

**We also see that:**

### **C. The Resurrection was witnessed**

**In verse 5 of 1 Corinthians chapter 15 Paul begins to list the eyewitnesses who saw Jesus after His resurrection.**

**1 Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:**

**1 Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.**

**1 Corinthians 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.**

**1 Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.**

**Paul was naming people that the Corinthians had met. They knew when he said Cephas that he was talking about the Apostle Peter.**

**They most likely knew Peter's testimony about denying Jesus when Jesus was being judged and about seeing Jesus after he arose.**

**He had all but given up, not knowing what else to do, he went back to what he was comfortable with, fishing.**



John 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

John 21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

**When Paul said that Jesus was seen by the twelve, they probably remembered the story of Thomas who doubted the eye witness account of the other eleven disciples until he saw the resurrected Jesus for himself.**

John 20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

John 20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

John 20:27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my

hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

**John 20:28** And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

**John 20:29** Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

**When Paul said that Jesus was seen by over 500 people, many of whom were still alive, the Corinthians, hearing Paul's words, may have even thought of a few people they had met who personally saw Jesus.**

**Surely these Corinthians remembered Paul's own testimony when he said "last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."**

**Paul still bore the shame of having imprisoned and witnessed the death of those who put their trust in Jesus.**

**He was on the road to Damascus to put more in prison when he was blinded by the holiness of Jesus.**

**Acts 9:3** And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

**Even the Jewish historian Josephus wrote about the resurrection of Jesus when he wrote the Antiquities of the Jews.**

Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; (64) and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross,<sup>b</sup> those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day,<sup>c</sup> as the

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<sup>b</sup> A.D. 33, April 3.

<sup>c</sup> April 5.

divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

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**Finally there is the testimony of history. In the book of Acts 5 when the Apostles were standing in front of the Sanhedrin for preaching about Jesus**

**Acts 5:34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;**

**Acts 5:38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:**

**Acts 5:39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.**

**Down through the ages people have turned their lives over to Jesus. They have preached in His name. They have taught in**

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<sup>1</sup>Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1996, c1987). *The works of Josephus : Complete and unabridged*. Includes index. (Ant 18.63-64). Peabody: Hendrickson.

**His name. They have helped others in need in His name, and they have turned away from sins that were destroying their lives and the lives of those closest to them.**

**None who truly have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ have been forced to convert. They have come to Jesus of their own free will. Not to receive a better life here on earth because for many the trials only increase. They often suffer rejection by their family and friends, sometimes being condemned to imprisonment or death by the government or religious authorities.**

**Gamaliel told the council “But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.”**

**Many down through the ages have broken their hammers on the anvil of the Gospel. Their names have been forgotten but the Gospel message is just as clear today as it was over 2100 years ago.**

**Finally we come to understand the**

### **III. Importance of the Resurrection**

**The resurrection is part of the**

**Gospel Message.**

**Paul said:**

**1 Corinthians 15:1** Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

**Paul declared the Gospel to the Corinthians**

**In verses 3 and 4 Paul describes the Gospel message:**

**1 Corinthians 15:3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

**1 Corinthians 15:4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

**The Gospel Message that Paul preached was that**

- 1. Christ died for our sins**
- 2. he was buried**
- 3. he rose again the third day. (He was resurrected)**

**As far as the unbeliever is concerned,**

**If Jesus did not rise from the grave, then the unbeliever is no worse or better off than before.**

However , if Jesus has indeed risen from the grave after three days:

just as the Old Testament prophecies predicted, as Jesus Promised, the disciples and Apostles gave testimony to witnessing, the historian recorded, and time has proven, then we can logically believe:

1. That everything that Jesus claimed is true and every promise that he made, he will keep.
2. Jesus did die for your sins.
3. If you put your trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ you will receive eternal life.

We can believe him when he says:

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**John 3:17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

**John 3:18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**Salvation is a gift of God, but it isn't your gift until you receive it by placing your trust in Jesus.**

**If you are at a point in your life where it seems God is speaking to you and would like to know more about why you can trust the Bible and what it means to truly have a relationship with Christ, come to me and ask me about the one on one Basic Bible Truths classes that we offer.**