

**THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST**  
**PART 4a—CHRIST’S RESURRECTION**  
**2 JOHN 7-11; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8**

**Introduction**

Those of you who were with us for our first message on the Doctrine of Christ may remember that we looked at the **Person of Christ**. In that message we saw how that Paul called Christ the “*Firstborn From The Dead*.” If you will remember, we said that phrase or description of Christ was speaking of **His Resurrection** and meant that Jesus Christ was **the first to arise from the dead to die no more!**

This morning I want us to look closer at what is undoubtedly **the most important doctrine to our faith**—The doctrine or teaching of Christ’s Resurrection.

**I. THE FACT OF CHRIST’S RESURRECTION!**  
**(1 Corinthians 15:4)**

*2 Timothy 2:8—“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:”*

The resurrection of Christ is in many respects **the most important fact of Christian history!** It is a rock of certainty when it comes to Christian evidences.

R.A. Torrey said, “*If the scriptural assertions of Christ’s resurrection can be established as historic certainties [and they can], the claims and doctrines of Christianity rest upon an impregnable foundation.*”

**There are certain unquestionable facts of history that demand the resurrection of Christ to account for them:**

**A. Why Did The Apostles And Early Church Preach The Resurrection?**

**Beyond question, it is documented that the foundational truth preached in the early years of the Church’s history was that of the Death, Burial, And Resurrection of Christ!**

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**1. Why would the apostles use this as the cornerstone of their creed if it was not well attested to and firmly believed?**

**2. If Jesus had not risen there would have been some evidence early on that He had not.**

However, the Apostles went up and down the very city where Christ had been crucified and proclaimed right to the face of those who crucified Him that He had been raised and there was no one who produced any evidence to the contrary!

The best they could do was to say that the Roman guards went to sleep and that His disciples stole His body!

But, if the disciples had stolen the body, they would have known about it, and the great moral transformation that took place in the lives of the disciples would remain unaccounted for!

So, *The Preaching Of The Resurrection* is an unquestionable fact of history that demands the resurrection of Christ to account for it:

**B. Secondly, Why Did The Apostles And The Early Church Change Their Day Of Worship From Saturday To Sunday?**

This was changed, not by an explicitly stated decree, but by general consent.

In Bible days, we find the disciples meeting on the first day of the week.

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*Acts 20:7—“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”*

*1 Corinthians 16:2—“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”*

**C. Thirdly, What Else Would Account For Such A Drastic Change In The Christ’s Disciples?**

Consider this, they went from **fear and utter despair** at the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus to a **boldness and courage** that nothing could shake after having seen him for the 40 days He walked this earth after He arose and before He ascended to Heaven.

Luke, in his book on the Acts of the Apostles writes of Peter, who denied even knowing Christ before His Crucifixion: *Acts 4:19-20—“But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”*

*Acts 5:29—“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”*

Such a radical change demands an explanation!  
Nothing short of **The Fact of the Resurrection** will explain it!

These unquestionable facts are so impressive and so conclusive that even infidel and Jewish scholars have admitted that the apostles *truly believed* that Jesus rose from the dead!

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*THE FACT OF CHRIST’S RESURRECTION!*

**II. THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRIST’S RESURRECTION!**

**A. Its Importance In The Scriptures!**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is mentioned directly 104 or more times in the New Testament!

[raised (37), raise (1), rise (10), risen (21), rose (6), rising (1), life (1), alive (2), liveth (6), brought again (1), quickened (3), begotten (1), resurrection (11)]

**B. Its Importance In The Apostles Testimony!  
(1 Corinthians 15:11-15)**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ had a prominence in the Apostles teaching and preaching that it does not have in much of modern day teaching and preaching!

**(Acts 1:21-22; 2:22-24, 29-32; 4:33; 17:18; 23:6)**

**C. The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ Is One Of Three Fundamental Truths Of The Gospel.  
(1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4)**

Christ was crucified, buried, and rose again.

His crucifixion loses its meaning without the Resurrection. A dead Saviour doesn’t do anyone any good.

Without it, Christ’s death would only be the heroic death of a noble martyr Who died for a cause!

With the Resurrection, it is the atoning death of the very Son of God!

The Resurrection shows His death to be of sufficient value to cover all our sins, for it was the sacrifice of the eternal Son of God!

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PART 4a—CHRIST’S RESURRECTION  
2 JOHN 7-11; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION:**

**D. Disprove The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ, And Christian Faith Is Vain! (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17)**

The word “*vain*” means “*empty*” and “*forceless*.”

On the other hand, if Jesus Christ did rise, Christian preaching and faith rest upon a solid and unassailable foundation of fact!

**E. The Doctrine Of The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ Has The Power To Save Anyone Who Believes It With The Heart! (Romans 10:9-10)**

*Romans 1:16—“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

**F. The Doctrine Of The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ Is What Puts “Life” In Eternal Life! (Romans 5:6-10)**

*John 6:40—“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: **and I will raise him up at the last day.**”*

*John 11:25-26—“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”*

**G. To Know The Power Of Christ’s Resurrection Is One Of The Highest Ambitions Of The Intelligent Believer! (Philippians 3:7-10)**

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PART 4a—CHRIST’S RESURRECTION  
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We’ve seen: THE FACT OF CHRIST’S RESURRECTION.  
You can choose to believe the facts or refuse the facts, **but you cannot change the facts.**

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRIST’S RESURRECTION.

It was important for our salvation! Without it we would not have the promise of life after the grave!

You will not get saved apart from believing in your heart that Christ died for your sins, He was buried, and He arose on the third day!

Don’t let the world and the devil and his cohorts play tricks on you!

No one has disproved the Resurrection! You want to know something else?

They never will! Why? Because it really did happen!

**Conclusion**

We’re going to drive a peg up here and come back next week, Lord willing, and see some other things about the Resurrection Of Jesus Christ.