

1Corinthians 15:12-19 – Christ’s Resurrection: A Big Deal?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Why is the resurrection of Jesus considered one of the most important events in history? Why so many songs? Was the resurrection such a big deal? Yes, it was, and you will hear 3 reasons why it is such a big deal today.

Our headings are:

Because Christ was raised you will be raised too!

Because Christ was raised you will proclaim the Gospel!

Because Christ was raised you will be forgiven all your sins!

Our goals are: **You will understand and cherish the resurrection of Jesus Christ for you, so you can love him better, and you will then make the introduction of others to Jesus so they too can receive the benefits of Christ’s resurrection.**

Because Christ was raised you will be raised too!

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, **how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?** 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

1. Jesus was gloriously raised from the dead the 1st day of the week.

Indeed, God did not leave his Holy One to decay – to rot in the grave.

Psalm 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor **will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.** 11 You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy...**

His disciples saw him, talked to him, touched him, ate with him, and worshipped him after his resurrection. He met with them many Sabbaths (Sundays) after his resurrection. At one time 500 people saw him.

The resurrection was so glorious and important the Sabbath – the day of rest and worship, was changed to Sunday.

But Christ’s resurrection was not just a glorious fact to bring bragging rights. (“My God is greater than your god.”) This fact of his resurrection has important implications.

2. Because Christ was gloriously raised from the dead, at the end of the world he will raise up all the dead who believe in him and give them new bodies, and those who are alive who believe in him will have a kind of resurrection of their bodies.

Their bodies will be changed. **Because Jesus has a new body so will you!** And with your new bodies you will go to heaven!

1Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the **dead in Christ will rise first.** 17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And

thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Jesus conquered death when he was raised! And he gives that victory to you!

3. Look at a number of examples of the promise of being raised up and taken to heaven because of Christ's resurrection.

Isaiah prophesied 2750 years ago that this would happen.

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth;

Apostle Paul even mocked death. Paul was so confident of this victory over death that he wrote about this future victory in the present tense...as if it had happened already.

1Corinthians 15:55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

When a bee or wasp loses its sting...or a poisonous snake loses its fangs...it is not a threat to anyone anymore. (You can play with a wasp that has no sting. It can try, but it can't sting you.) Death's teeth have been pulled. It might gnaw on you but it is no longer dangerous. Death may rattle like a rattlesnake or hiss like a cobra (you might get a little scared)– but it can't bite.

Apostle John spoke of death's final destruction. You will receive a new and glorious body. Death is "put to death" forever.

Revelations 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

"Hades" the grave, **cannot control the power of God's resurrection.** **Consider Job's take on the new body.**

Job 19:26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, **That in my flesh I shall see God,**

He knew that his body would be eaten by worms or become dust again, but he knew that **from his body** he would see God. His soul would rejoin his body on resurrection day. Look at one more passage.

Philippians 3: 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly

wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who **will transform our lowly body** that it may be **conformed to His** glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Your body will be glorious, free from all sickness and woe, and with no desire to sin. The best plastic surgeon's work on your body will fall apart after a while...but not the new body Christ will give you!

4. Lessons:

a. Christ was raised, so you too will be raised. This will complete your salvation!

Revelation 21:4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

b. Don't be afraid of death anymore. Don't try to die, but if it comes, don't worry. A better body only comes this way!

c. Laugh at death! Laugh at death because you are guaranteed a new resurrected life. Jesus was raised. So will you!

Because Christ was raised you will proclaim the Gospel

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, **because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ,** whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

1. Christ's resurrection from the dead confirmed everything he said about his life and death to his disciples.

It proved that he was the Son of God who came to save the world.

Romans 1:3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and **declared to be the Son of God** with power according to the Spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead.**

The Jews in Jerusalem understood that the resurrection proved that Jesus was the Son of God and therefore they had to believe everything he said - that the Lamb of God was the perfect sacrifice for sins- so they paid people to try to disprove that he was raised. Who could deny this message after it was confirmed by so great a miracle?

But the resurrection, as you saw above, was part of and a completion of the Gospel itself! It was more than a confirmation!

2. With the fact of Christ's resurrection established, this message and to be proclaimed to the world so others could benefit.

Acts 1: 21 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 "beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, **one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.**"

If Christ were not raised from the dead, there would be no preaching. **The dead cannot save the living. Christianity without the resurrection is moralistic futility.** Without the resurrection is only hell.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again **to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

If Christ were not raised from the dead, it would make no sense to preach. There would be no salvation.

3. Lessons:

a. If Jesus were not raised from the dead, Christianity would be like every other religion, grounded in human work. You could only place your faith in yourself. How hopeless that would be! But now you can preach about faith in Christ (the object of your faith).

b. Don't concede that Muslims and Jews believe like you. They reject Christ's resurrection. The Jews tried to hide the fact of Christ's resurrection. The Muslims do the same...but argue that he never died. The foundation of these religions rests in the denial of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They will go to hell, unless they get the message of Christ's resurrection.

c. Be evangelistic. Know the worthlessness of the views of the Jehovah's Witnesses who deny life after death! And know how hopeless the Hindus are...teaching of the ever-recycling soul, hopelessly searching for rest! **Evangelize the world. Every Christian has been commissioned to announce the resurrection** – to preach it wherever you go and live it wherever you go. Have you ever told someone that Jesus was raised from the dead?

Since Christ was raised you will be forgiven all your sins!

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; **you are still in your sins!**

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ **have perished.** **19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all **men the most pitiable.**

1. At the resurrection of Jesus, all sins (the mother of death) were paid for in full so you can't be punished.

Christ kept the law and answered all the demands of the law – a law which brought judgment on you. Rom 4:15. Sin and death cannot therefore hold you accountable. Death (the child) has been abolished by Christ's death and resurrection, so sin's (the mother) strength is taken away. **Christ's death has no atoning value without his resurrection.** Look at the spiritual benefits of Christ's death and resurrection!

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And look at how this new life came.

Romans 4: 25 [Jesus] was delivered up because of our offenses, and **was raised because of our justification.**

This means you **never have to die for your sins** and you **can never be separated from God.** What your **Covenant Keeper acquired he put to your account forever!** If Adam had passed his test, you would have been confirmed in righteousness forever. But he failed. So Jesus did what Adam did not do.

2. If Christ were not raised from the dead, then you would still be in your sins, and therefore, most pitiable.

But now you have joy inexpressible as you no longer carry the debt of your sins.

4. Lessons:

a. Because your sins are forgiven, you have the hope of heaven with a down payment of sitting in heavenly places now. You **don't have to live like a refugee** – now or later.

Colossians 3:3 **For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.** 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then **you also will appear with Him in glory.**

b. Live in peace – this most desirable thing – regardless of the upheavals around you.

Colossians 3: 1 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth.

Live like a prince – a princess. Claim God's promises. You have an impenetrable wall around your soul!

c. Worship God. You can! The unsaved can't do this. Their worship is abominable.

Conclusion:

Because Christ was raised, you will be raised as well. You were in him when he died and you were in him when he was raised. The dead who believe will be joined with those who are alive who believe and go to heaven with him. Because Christ was raised, **proclaim his resurrection to the world so they can be saved.** Because Christ was raised all your sins are forgiven. **Those who promote a moralistic Christ always ignore the resurrection.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Let the knowledge of Christ's resurrection give you confidence in how you live now and as

you wait for heaven.

2. Let the knowledge of Christ's resurrection make you live in obedience now. As you do, you will store up treasures in heaven.

3. Let the knowledge of Christ's resurrection make you evangelistic. Let the lost hear and be saved.

3. To do these things, you need to constantly be reminded of Christ's resurrection. Ignore any preacher who ignores the resurrection!

Finally, if you don't believe Christ died for your sins and rose again to give that credit to you, then you will die in your sins and spend eternity in hell. If you don't want to die for your sins and spend eternity in hell, ask God to count Christ's death for your sins.