

## Why the Resurrection Brings Hope

I Corinthians 15:1-19

3/27/05

### Intro

He is risen...He is risen indeed!!

Today is the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior from the dead. It was the first day of the week. In Russian, the first day of the week is called, "The day of the resurrection."

Some do not believe in the resurrection of Christ. This is a crucial point to our faith. Paul makes that clear as he spreads the good news throughout the known world. Jesus was resurrected physically – His body did not see decay.

Some try to come up with alternative theories as to what happened to the body of Jesus -- to no avail. None of the theories have ever held up. (Especially the theory that He was thrown to dogs, the Oregonian's view.)

It's also interesting that today there is a lot of attention being given to what Islam teaches and Islam teaches that not only was Jesus not resurrected, he was never crucified! They believe that God took Jesus up and allowed someone else to die in his place. (This is the opposite of the Christian doctrine that Christ died in our place.)

To Paul, this is a pivotal and key doctrine. To be wrong on this point is to miss the most important part of the Good News!!

**It is because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ that we have hope.**

## I. Because Christ Died For Our Sins

### A. Outside of Christ, there is no hope

- There is no one else who died for our sins.
- Verse 17, "If Christ has not been raised, then you are still in your sins."

**Illus- Some say there are many roads that lead to heaven. The problem is that all roads hit a chasm and Christ is the only bridge to eternal life.**

**John 14:6-7, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."**

**Ephesians 2:12-13, "Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ ... having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."**

### B. According to the scriptures

Vs 2-3

- This is no random event, but rather the culmination of all time and eternity.

**Illus – On the road to Emmaus, the resurrected Lord joined two men and starting from Moses, told them about Christ in the scriptures.**

**Psalm 22:1, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”**

**Isaiah 53:5-6, “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”**

**Illus – Jonah, the only sign given to the Pharisees...**

C. All our hope is now in Him

- Because of the resurrection of Christ, we are no longer in our sins and now have hope of life we didn't have before.

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

**II. Because He Makes All Things New**

A. Paul's life was made new by Jesus

- He was changed from an enemy of the church, one who breathed “murderous threats,” to an example of grace. (verses 9-10)

**I Timothy 1:15-17, “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

B. In Christ, we are now free

- (verse 22) “In Christ, all shall be made alive.”
- We were once in **bondage to sin; bound by its condemnation, and bound by its power.**

**Romans 8:1-2, “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”**

**Acts 13:38-40, “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.”**

- The power of sin is the lies that come with it.

**John 8:31-32, 37, So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free... if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”**

C. The love of Christ controls us

- It was because of God's love that He sent His Son into the world to die for us.

**Illus – The point of the movie, “The Passion of the Christ,” was to remind us of how much Jesus suffered for us. When we realize *He did that for me*, we realize how much He loved us.**

**II Corinthians 5:14-15, “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”**

**Luke 7:36-50 - The woman who loved much...**

**III. Because Our Hope is Eternal**

Vs 12-14

A. There are two kinds of death

- For some, death is an enemy – the end.
- For us, death is simply the door to new life.

**Philippians 1:21, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”**

**I Corinthians 15:54-56, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin...”**

B. There are two kinds of resurrection

- For some there is a resurrection to judgment.
- For us, we have the hope of the resurrection to eternal life...

**I John 3:2-3, “We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”**

**John 11:25-26, Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”**

Conclusion

**The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the hope of eternal life and the freedom from all our sins. In Him all things are made new. In Christ, all things are made right with God.**