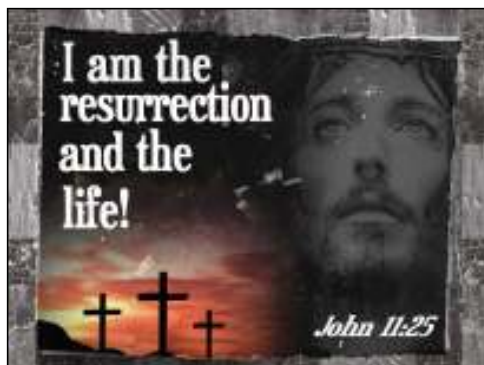


Why The Cross? Resurrection 2010
Why the Resurrection?



Death and Resurrection

“...I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

John 12:24-25

Introduction: Apart from the resurrection, the death of Christ would have no meaning. The resurrection:

1. Assures us that Christ was the ‘Son of God’ *Rom 1:4*
2. Assures us of our justification *Rom 4:5*
3. Assures us of our own resurrection *1 Cor 15:13-23*
4. Assures us of ‘victory’ now and in the future *Rom 6:4-11*

A. The Resurrection and the Gospel *1 Cor 15:1-4*

1. **The Good News:** The good news (the gospel) is the news about
 - a. The death of Christ
 - b. The burial of Christ
 - c. The resurrection of Christ

B. The Resurrection and the Church *1 Cor 15:13-19*

The resurrection of the Messiah is the foundation for the church. Paul gives five examples of what would happen if Christ had **NOT** risen from the dead!

1. **Preaching would be in vain** :14 If Jesus were just a ‘good man’ as so many believe, our preaching (sharing the gospel) would have no power. The Bible would only contain some good stories with moral applications—but would not have the power to save.
2. **Faith would be useless** :14 and :17 All that we believe by faith, the deity of Christ, eternal life, the power of prayer—would be of no value. Faith must have a source—and the resurrection power of God is that source. Abraham demonstrated that kind of faith regarding Isaac *Gen 22:12*
3. **The apostles would have been false teachers** :15 The first apostles had to be eye witnesses of the resurrection (Acts 1:21-22). Spiritual authority and the founding of the church would be a lie.
4. **Believers would still be in sin** :17; *Acts 4:10-12* The angel spoke to Joseph and said, “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” *Mat 1:21*
5. **Those who have died have perished** :18-19 How sad this would be if the gospel message were ONLY about living our dreams in this life. But Paul says in 1 Cor 15:20 “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

:2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

:4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:13-19

:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

: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.

: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.