

IF JESUS IS STILL DEAD, SO WHAT?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-20

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS
EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 21, 2019

Introduction: Many people assume that the most important aspect of Jesus' life was His extraordinary teaching or servant attitude. But today, we are celebrating the singular event in Jesus' life that distinguished Him from anyone else in human history -- an event that still offers us hope today.

I. **The Case For Christ's Resurrection** (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

A. **The Evidence of Scripture** (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ¹ "Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

Psalms 16:10 "For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay."

Job 19:25-26 ²⁵ "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. ²⁶ Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God;"

Matthew 16:21 "From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day."

Matthew 27:63-64 ⁶³ "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' ⁶⁴ Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

B. **The Evidence of Eyewitnesses** (1 Corinthians 15:5-11)

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1 Corinthians 15:5-8 ⁵ “and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”

II. **The Consequences Of No Resurrection** (1 Corinthians 15:12-20)

A. **Christ Is Not Risen from the Dead** (1 Corinthians 15:12-13)

1 Corinthians 15:12-13 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, not even Christ has been raised;”

1 John 1:1 “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life—”

Hebrews 4:15-16 ¹⁵ “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

B. **Preaching Is Useless** (1 Corinthians 15:14)

1 Corinthians 15:14a “And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain...”

C. **Faith Is Meaningless** (1 Corinthians 15:14)

1 Corinthians 15:14 “And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.”

D. **All Christians Are Liars** (1 Corinthians 15:15-16)

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1 Corinthians 15:15-16 ¹⁵ “Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;”

E. **You Are Still in Your Sins** (1 Corinthians 15:17)

1 Corinthians 15:17 “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless, you are still in your sins.”

The Resurrection Verifies

1. **The deity of Christ** (Romans 1:4)

Romans 1:4 “Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

2. **The sufficiency of Christ** (Romans 4:23-25)

Romans 4:23-25 ²³ “Now not for his sake only was it written, that it was reckoned to him, ²⁴ but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.”

F. **All Christian Loved Ones Have Perished** (1 Corinthians 15:18)

1 Corinthians 15:18 “Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.”

G. **Our Lives Are Miserable** (1 Corinthians 15:19)

1 Corinthians 15:19 “If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

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III. The Certainty Of The Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20)

1 Corinthians 15:20 “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.”

1 Corinthians 15:3b “...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”

John 11:25 “I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

Conclusion