

The Resurrections

TEXT: 1 Cor. 15:12-20; John 5:28-29

INTRODUCTION: The resurrection of Jesus following His death by crucifixion is the very _____ of the Christian faith. Listen to the Apostle Paul in heartfelt words to the believers in Corinth.

1 Cor. 15:12-19 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. 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.

In essence, Paul is saying to his fellow Christians, “The resurrection of Jesus is the very core of our faith.” Paul said to believers, “Listen, without the resurrection of Jesus, I’ve got _____ for you.” But as Paul says in verse 20

1 Corinthians 15:20 **But now Christ is risen from the dead...**

And Paul proceeds to tell them about their own _____ resurrection. Thinking about our own resurrection from among the dead in days to come depends first on rightly understanding the resurrection of Jesus Himself. The most important thing we must understand about the resurrection of Jesus is that...

I. JESUS ROSE _____ FROM THE DEAD.

A. This was not some mystical resurrection.

1. **Not a resurrection of _____**
2. **... or hope**
3. **... or _____**
4. **... or concept**

B. **Jesus bodily rose from the dead.** He came _____. He walked, talked, ate. He lived. He still lives. He is alive!

C. **God had the fact of Jesus’ resurrection carefully documented in history.**

1. **The religious establishment known as the _____, who could not get Him to knuckle under their system of man-made controls, took Jesus through a series of _____, witnessed His death, and warned of the promise of His _____.**
2. **A government led by Pontus Pilate, who feared Him, officially _____ His death and guaranteed that a resurrection could not be _____ by securing the tomb with a _____.**
3. **God Himself** timed the crucifixion so that **Jerusalem** would be **filled with _____** who had gathered from all over the world **for the _____ Feast. Thousands** of them **witnessed** the trial before Pilate and **Jesus' death** upon the cross.
4. More than _____ **people** of the common folk of the land **saw Jesus alive** after He had been placed stone cold dead in a borrowed tomb.
5. Let me tell you about one that we might call “an unusual witness.” His name is Joseph, **Joseph of Arimathea**. All four of the gospels tell of his involvement. They tell us he was a _____ **man**, which means that he had a lot to lose by believing in this Jesus. He also was a **member of the Sanhedrin**, but he did not vote to put Jesus to death. He, like Nicodemus, **had become a _____** and had trusted Jesus as Lord and Master. So after Jesus was crucified, Joseph of Arimathea **asked Pilate for Jesus' body**, and _____ **the Savior in a tomb** he had had carved out for himself. Now, this little known man actually **becomes one of the most _____ witnesses** of the reality of the resurrection of Jesus because...
 - a. **If Jesus had not really been _____, Joseph would have known.** He prepared Jesus' body for burial.
 - b. **If the disciples had _____ Jesus' body out from under the noses of sleeping guards, Joseph would have known.** He was still a member of the Sanhedrin and privy to the lie they told to Pilate to try to hide the fact of Jesus' resurrection.
 - c. **If the body of Jesus _____ in his tomb, Joseph would have known.** The tomb belonged to him. He could come and go as he liked. He would have recognized the claim to the lordship of Christ was a hoax because the body was still there.
 - d. **But Joseph _____ a disciple of Jesus.** When every gospel writer sited this member of the Sanhedrin as a witness, if Joseph had not remained a follower of Christ, the unbelieving Jews would have thrust him forward to contradict the claims of resurrection. But they didn't. They couldn't! Because **Joseph of Arimathea was present for the whole event, and he was an eyewitness of Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead!**

So, when we talk about resurrection, for Jesus or for us, we are not talking metaphysics and philosophy. We are talking _____. When a person is resurrected, their soul and spirit are reunited with a new living body. And listen now to this...

II. _____ GETS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

I know that you who are in Christ because you have put your faith in the One who died upon the cross for your sins are rejoicing at the certain prospect of your own resurrection. The words of the old hymn are reality for you, “Now you need not _____ the grave; Jesus Christ was born to _____.” Or you hum with delight the newer song “I Can Only Imagine” as you look forward to an eternity with Christ following your resurrection from the dead.

But you who have no such certainty, listen. Whether it be because you have previously _____ Christ, or because you have not heard of His death for your sins and the opportunity for you to trust Him and receive the gift of eternal life, or because you have _____ in responding to the gracious invitation of the Savior, whatever, the reason, listen to me.

Death for you will not be _____. You will not cease to _____. You will not be in a state of suspended animation or blissful _____. As the soul and spirit of those who have trusted in Christ go immediately to heaven to await the resurrection of their bodies, so the soul and spirit of those without Christ go immediately to _____ to await the resurrection of their bodies also.

That’s what Jesus is saying. “_____ who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth.” Some to the resurrection of _____. Others to the resurrection of _____. But _____ gets raised from the dead!

And as Jesus said...

III. THERE ARE _____ RESURRECTIONS.

A. The Resurrection of _____ The Resurrection of Life is also called the _____ Resurrection (Rev. 20:6). It consists of four parts:

1 Corinthians 15:22-25 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ’s at His coming. 24 Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

1. **The resurrection of _____** (The first to rise from the dead and not die again!)

2. **The resurrection of the other Firstfruits (_____ believers)**

Matthew 27:52–53 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

3. **The resurrection of those who are Christ's at His _____:**

a. **Those who _____ in Christ**

1 Thessalonians 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.

b. **Those who are saved and living at the _____**

1 Thessalonians 4:17 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.

c. **Those who are saved and die during the _____**

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

4. **The resurrection of those who are saved and die during the _____.**

B. The Resurrection of _____ The Resurrection of Condemnation is the _____ Resurrection.

Revelation 20:12-13 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

1. _____ **the Millennium**

2. All are resurrected from _____ to appear for The Great White Throne Judgment
- a. Only the lost are being judged.
 - b. The _____ reveal that they are guilty of sin against Holy God.
 - c. The Book of Life reveals they have never trusted Christ so that their sin was forgiven because of His shed blood on Calvary's cross.
 - d. All of the lost are cast into the Lake of _____.

Revelation 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

CONCLUSION: The awful truth is that those who have died without trusting in Christ will also be given resurrection bodies, which will not _____. But they shall live within those bodies for eternity tormented in the undying flames of the Lake of Fire.

My dear friend, this is not what Jesus wants for you. He died that cruel death upon the cross to offer you forgiveness of your sin and the gift of eternal life, so that you might live forever with Him in your glorious resurrected body. All you must do is receive that life by trusting Him as your Lord and Savior. But He will not make you do it. You will be resurrected. You will spend _____ somewhere. You decide where by your _____ to Jesus.