

The Truth of a Risen Savior

Luke 23:50-24:12

Jesus' own words.

- The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day.
- Repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations.
- You are witnesses of these things.
- Look, I am sending you.

Now Paul...

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. **6** Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me.

What if...the resurrection of Jesus is not true?

1. Christian teaching and faith is without value.
2. The bible is a nice book, but ultimately filled with lies (Paul and the other apostles).
3. Death is all there is.
4. Those who proclaim Jesus are the most pathetic people of all. **1 Corinthians 15:19** If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

1 Corinthians 15:13-17 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; **14** and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith. **15** Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that he raised up Christ—whom he did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

History however reveals Jesus as Risen!

1 Corinthians 15:12, The resurrection is a proclaimed fact.

With the truth of the resurrection God's children are

1. Not pitied but living in the promises of the kingdom.
2. Not lost but saved (forgiven).
3. Not simply living for the here and now but looking forward to going home (God's kingdom).

1 Corinthians 15:55-57, Death has been swallowed up in victory.

55 Where, death, is your victory?

Where, death, is your sting?

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

"No man shall ever take from me the joy that Christ rose from the dead." ~ Charles Spurgeon

"God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."
~ C.S. Lewis

1 Corinthians 15:32 What do I gain...If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

- We feast and celebrate.
- We are no longer overcome by darkness, but we cherish the unending and never fading light of Jesus.
- We are people of hope. “Not only hope for the future; it gives you hope to handle your scars right now.” ~ Timothy Keller

Worldly wisdom - you only live once, take advantage of it, find your maximum pleasure now because it is only down hill from here.

Godly wisdom - life follows death, not the other way around. The fullest life is yet to come.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. **17** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

Jesus interrupts our sadness and gives us the opportunity to fully embrace life.

Allow people to see the beauty and resolve of your life!

Luke 24:46-48 He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, **47** and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things.

You are witnesses! This is Easter!
 The truth of the resurrection.
 The enormity of the forgiveness of sin.
 The tenderness of repentance.
 The hope of a life lived in Jesus centered peace.

Luke 22:69 But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

Because of Easter we have the joy and experiential knowledge to be a witness.

Acts 26:22-23 To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: **23** that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

Proclaim Light!