

Essentials
The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus
1 Corinthians 15:20

1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV) — But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

ONE THING

The RESURRECTION of JESUS is the single GREATEST event in all of HISTORY. Everything must be FILTERED through its REALITY.

As we begin I want to point out the reality of the BODILY Resurrection of Jesus...

Romans 10:9 (ESV) — If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1. The INFORMATION confirming the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:20a (ESV) — But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead ...

→ Pic - Outline

Five Early Historical Eyewitness Facts to the Resurrection

- 1. Jesus physically died by Roman Crucifixion**
- 2. The Early Church Confessions**
- 3. The Conversion of James, the half-brother of Jesus**
- 4. The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus**
- 5. Paul's First Visit to Jerusalem (Galatians 1)**

These come from Gary Habermas, the world's leading scholar on the resurrection of Jesus

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There are almost no scholars, even including the critical and skeptical scholars who do not believe the factual evidence that Jesus of Nazareth was executed by Roman crucifixion...

This destroys any idea that Jesus didn't actually die...

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Within weeks of the Crucifixion of Jesus we have His followers making AMAZING CONFESSIONS regarding Jesus...

→ Jesus is God

→ Jesus was crucified for our sins

→ Jesus bodily rose from the dead

The earliest Christology is the highest Christology

Listen to this early church confession...

1 Corinthians 15:3–6 (ESV) — For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

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Mark 3, 6, John 7 – The brothers of Jesus rejected him

John 7:3–5 (ESV) — So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” For not even his brothers believed in him.

We know that when Jesus was on the Cross He turned to His Mother and the apostle John...

- *Behold your Mother... behold your son*
- Being the eldest son Jesus had the responsibility of caring for His Mother until her death...*

Because He was dying He gave His responsibility to John...

Why not one of His other brothers?

... They were not believers and they were not there!...

Yet 40+ days later we read of the 120 followers of Jesus gathered together in the upper room...

LOOK who was included in the 120 followers!

Acts 1:14 (ESV) — All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

1 Corinthians 15:7 (ESV) — Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

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Saul of Tarsus was a violent enemy of the followers of Jesus!

He was a Pharisee...

He was relentless in his attacks against the early Christians...

However, this enemy of Christianity became one of, if not the greatest follower of Jesus probably 2-3 years after the Resurrection...

What changed him?

Acts 9:3–6 (ESV) — Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

1 Corinthians 15:8 (ESV) — Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

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Galatians 1:18–19 (ESV) — Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

So Paul goes to Jerusalem and sits down with Peter and James (the brother of Jesus) and asks them about their experience of seeing the resurrected Jesus...

The resurrection of Jesus is the single greatest event in all of history. Everything must be filtered through its reality.

1. The INFORMATION confirming the Resurrection

2. The IMPERATIVE of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV) — But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Without the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christianity does not exist!

Christianity, quite simply, is a resurrection religion!

1 Corinthians 15:12 (ESV) — Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

We are going to see in a few minutes that Jesus' bodily resurrection points to His followers also being raised from the dead...

If there is no resurrection Paul lists SEVEN essentials that are stripped from the Gospel message...

➤ ***Christ has not been raised***

1 Corinthians 15:13 (ESV) — But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

1 Corinthians 15:16 (ESV) — For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

Paul is pushing the logic of the heretic's arguments against them...

They may not have intended to say Jesus was not raised, but, in reality, that is what they are saying!

➤ ***Our preaching is in vain***

1 Corinthians 15:14a (ESV) — And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

The word, "VAIN" means without purpose or empty

The Gospel without the resurrection is useless!

➤ ***Your faith is in vain***

1 Corinthians 15:14b (ESV) — And if Christ has not been raised, then ... your faith is in vain.

Take out the resurrection and HOPE is gone!

➤ ***We are misrepresenting God***

1 Corinthians 15:15 (ESV) — We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

The very reputation of God is at stake when we remove the resurrection!

Galatians 1:11–12 (ESV) — For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

To say, or even imply by a worldly lifestyle, this life matters most, is to misrepresent God Himself!

➤ ***You are still in your sins***

1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV) — And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

The unanimous testimony of the Scriptures is summed up in this...

Romans 6:23 (ESV) — For the wages of sin is death ...

Death marks the end result of that separation from God...

Without the resurrection we are still in sin!

➤ ***Believers who have died have perished***

1 Corinthians 15:18 (ESV) — Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

To perish means to be destroyed ... to be no more...

➤ ***Believers should be pitied most***

1 Corinthians 15:19 (ESV) — If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

If life here on earth is all there is, it makes no sense to base our hope on the groundless promises of one who made empty assertions about eternity...

The resurrection of Jesus is the single greatest event in all of history. Everything must be filtered through its reality.

1. The INFORMATION confirming the Resurrection

2. The IMPERATIVE of the Resurrection

3. The IMPLICATIONS of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV) — But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The resurrection of Jesus is the single greatest event in all of history. Everything must be filtered through its reality.

The word translated here, “firstfruits” means...

“The first of a set, often in relation to something being given”

Ten Implications of the Resurrection of Jesus

- 1. Clarifies God's Word**
- 2. Verifies God's Promises**
- 3. Defines History**
- 4. Expresses God's Love**
- 5. Demonstrates humanity's value**
- 6. Gives meaning to life**
- 7. Validates the moral imperatives of God's Word**
- 8. Gives assurance to the future**
- 9. Declares God's victory over death**

10. Promises resurrection for all people – Eternal life for all believers & eternal death for all rejecters

This is the reality...

The denial of the bodily resurrection of Jesus is NOT an intellectual denial, but rather a moral and/or emotional denial.

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The _____ of _____ is the single _____ event in all of _____. Everything must be _____ through its _____.

1. The _____ confirming the Resurrection

2. The _____ of the Resurrection

3. The _____ of the Resurrection

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