

Countdown to Easter

Why is the Resurrection Important?

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

April 5, 2026 am

HDBC

Four men wrote accounts of the life of Jesus and **none of them end with the story with his death**. They all recorded the miracle of His resurrection. **Jesus died. But He also lives.** That's the crescendo of the story!

His resurrection is not simply a postscript to the story. It is not a casual addendum. It is in fact **the pinnacle of the story**. Everything about His life ultimately led to this point. Without the resurrection all that preceded it would be meaningless. **The resurrection is the linchpin of our faith.**

The past four weeks we have answered some of the key questions surrounding ***death, burial and resurrection of Jesus***.

Was Jesus really the Son of God?

Why did Jesus die?

Who killed Jesus?

Did He really suffer?

If you missed any of those, I hope you will listen or read them from the app.

Matthew, Mark, Luke & John described the resurrection as an event that happened in history. They mention times, places and names of witnesses. They describe the empty tomb and how the guards were bribed to lie about what actually happened. Their descriptive details offer credibility to their accounts. They quickly embraced the reality of the resurrection based on the evidence they had seen. They heard multiple witnesses who had seen Jesus, but more importantly, they too, saw the resurrected Jesus, multiple times. In doing so they established **the fact of the resurrection**.

Paul was not an initial believer to the resurrection. He heard the stories but believed they were the fanciful tales of deluded people, or diabolical lies meant to deceive the gullible. So, he pushed back . . . violently!

Yet, in 1 Corinthians, he too, wrote of the resurrection of Jesus, from the perspective of a believer. Clearly something had changed. We'll get to that later. In 1 Corinthians 15 he offered additional evidence of the resurrection, but then added a **theological perspective**. He answers the question he knew would be asked . . . ***Why is the resurrection important?***

Some were claiming that there was no resurrection . . . of anyone . . . period. There was nothing beyond death. Or if there was, it did not involve a physical body. Paul addressed the folly of that perspective with a logical and reasoned argument for the authenticity of the resurrection of Jesus. And then he proceeded to offer a theological analysis of the importance of the resurrection of Jesus. Five reasons the resurrection of Jesus was important.
READ TEXT – 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

According to this passage the resurrection of Jesus . . .

1. Validates our message (14)

Then our preaching is vain

Vain – meaningless. Of no worth. What was it that they were preaching? What was their message and our message? The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. The message is that Jesus, as the son of God, lived a sinless life, died in our place, paying our sin debt, was buried in a tomb, and was resurrected on the third day.

Our message would be meaningless without the resurrection of Jesus. If all we could say about Jesus is that he died and was buried, we have no good news at all. Jesus would be no different from all the others who offer some kind of hope for life beyond this life. ***A dead savior has no power to save.***

***The heart and soul of our preaching is the Gospel (good news).
And the heart and soul of the Gospel is the resurrection of Jesus.***

We preach that Jesus is alive. If He is not alive our preaching would be

vain because it would be untrue. It would offer not real distinction from all other claims of religious truth.

But He is alive and that **empowers our message**. What distinguishes our preaching from **that which is heard in a Muslim mosque, a Jewish synagogue, or Buddhist or Hindu temple** is the resurrection of Jesus. The fact that we are talking about a person who lived, died, & lives again makes all the difference in the world.

2. **Justifies our faith** (14)

Without the resurrection of Jesus . . . Your faith also is vain.

Without the resurrection our faith has **no power to change anything of consequence**. It might make us feel good for a season, but would have no power to give us assurance of eternal life. **It is the resurrection of Jesus that extends our hope beyond this life to the next**. Without the resurrection our faith is limited to hope for a better life here and now, but offers nothing beyond.

The resurrection of Jesus makes it clear that what we experience in this life is not all there is. His resurrection points to an existence which **transcends this one**. Faith in a dead man is worthless faith. If Christ is dead, then I have no reason to hope for anything beyond death. But He is not dead. He is alive. Therefore my faith is alive.

3. **Confirms our forgiveness** (17)

You are still in your sins.

Without the resurrection there would be no forgiveness of sins.

This is critical. If Jesus had not been resurrected, then we are still in our sins. That means it took more than the death of Christ to forgive our sins; it took the resurrection as well. Why is this so?

If Christ had not escaped the grave, it would signify that the process of

paying for our sins had not been completed. It would indicate that He **was an imposter, for he** had made it clear that He would be resurrected. His resurrection validated his claim to be the son of God.

His resurrection also reveals that our sin debt was paid in full. His resurrection points to the completion of the mission. It was the father's pleasure to allow His son to die for our sins, but it was also the father's pleasure to bring him from the grave, fully alive. His resurrection stamps, ***paid in full on my record***. If His body was still in the grave there could be no assurance that His death had been sufficient.

4. **Guarantees our future** (18)

Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If Jesus has not been resurrected from the dead, then those who have already died have perished. They have no life, no future. Because He has been resurrected, they are alive with him. ***I've always enjoyed walking through cemeteries.***

Chuck Swindoll relates the following gravestone messages:

Here lies Les Moore,
Shot four times with a forty-four.
No Les, No Moore.

In Ribbesford, England
Anna Wallace
The children of Israel wanted bread;
The Lord sent them manna.
Old Clerk Wallace wanted a wife;
The devil sent him Anna.

In a Silver City, NV cemetery
Here lies Butch—we planted him raw,
He was quick on the trigger

But slow on the draw

I saw one in cemetery in Princeton, NJ - She had fun!

Some are funny. Others betray a hopelessness. Consider this headstone found in a California cemetery. *You Can't Win!*

The older we get the more we think about what is going to happen on the other side of the grave. All people die. **We expend energy, time, and large amounts of money to avoid it**, but death eventually wins. What then?

Were it not for the resurrection of **Jesus** we would simply perish. We would be lost forever. But because of the resurrection of Jesus, we have life forever.

5. Affirms our hope (19)

If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Have you ever been the **recipient of a practical joke**? Someone set you up to make you believe something and you bought it. But it was all a charade?

If there is no resurrection, then we are to be pitied as fools. Without the resurrection, then it is all a mockery, a joke and there is no hope. And what happens when there is no hope?

There was a small town that had been selected to be the site of a hydroelectric plant. The plan was to set up a dam across the river which would result in the submerging of the small town. The announcement of the plan was made with ample time to give all the residents there the opportunity to get their affairs in order and relocate.

In the intervening months, something strange took place. House upkeep

stopped. Community improvement ceased. Infrastructure, basic lawn care, all came to an end. The town looked abandoned long before any of the residents had moved away.

One resident explained the phenomenon in these terms: ***Where there is no hope for the future, there is no power in the present.***

But the resurrection of Jesus is real and that brings hope for the future and power for the present.

People have not gathered for the past 2,000 years to say . . .

The value of my retirement account has risen,

The employment rate has risen,

The standard of living has risen,

The rise of those things can be short-lived and reversed.

People have gathered for the past 2,000 years to say . . .

Christ is risen!

Why is the resurrection important?

It empowers our message. It justifies our faith. It assures our forgiveness. It secures our future. It validates our hope.

But it is not only important for us, we Christ-followers. ***It is important for those who have yet to believed, those who are not Christ-followers.*** Why would it be important for them? Because it is the one thing that can cause all their objections to fade into the background. Think about this.

Most people who know about Jesus, yet reject following him, do so because there are things in the Bible that they don't like. They don't like what the Bible says about money, about sex, about holiness, about forgiveness, about the sovereignty of God, and so much more. Something in the Bible offends them to the point of rejecting it all.

But remember this. Paul was more offended by Christianity than any modern skeptic. He believed that it was not only false, but was dangerous.

He was so offended that he arrested and killed Christians. He believed it had to be defeated.

But when he came face-to-face with the risen Jesus, all of his objections and offenses faded into the background. Nothing else mattered, for if Jesus had truly died and was truly resurrected He was more than mere human. He was the Son of God, the Savior and the Lord.

Paul was not converted through intellectual persuasion. He was brought to faith in Christ when it became clear that the resurrection was true. That is the pivotal event in the history of the world. And that is the pivotal truth that leads a person from unbelief to belief.

If Jesus is not alive, then Christianity is a powerless charade.
But if Jesus is alive, everything about Christianity is real.

I serve a risen Savior . . . He's in the world today
I know that He is risen . . . No matter what men may say.