



Message Series Guide

Imperfect Church – I Corinthians

Part 25 – Because of the Resurrection

I Corinthians 15:12-20

What if the resurrection never occurred? What if Mary and Mary Magdalene had walked up to the tomb and didn't find the stone rolled away? Without the resurrection, the disciples would have never started the church. Without the resurrection, Jesus was just another man. Without the resurrection, there would be no Christianity, no peace, and no hope. The resurrection changed everything, and the resurrection changes everything for us. We may still experience the consequences of sin and may face strained relationships along with financial, emotional, or physical struggles. We still endure pain and may shed tears because of problems or troubles in the world. However, because Jesus rose from the dead, we who are in Christ will also be raised to eternal life to be with Christ forever. Because the tomb is empty, death doesn't have the last word.

READ:

I Corinthians 15:12-20 • Philippians 3:20-21; 10:3-11 • Romans 5:10; 6:1-14; 8:11; 10:9-10; Ephesians 1:18-21

- What was the conflict in the Corinthian church that led Paul to address the resurrection of Christ?
- The motto of the Greek world was, "Eat, drink and be merry. For tomorrow we die." How is that philosophy reflected in our world today? How does that philosophy contrast with God's Word and plan?
- In verses 14-19, Paul lists at least 6 implications that are true if Christ has not been raised from the dead. Identify each of those implications and how Jesus' resurrection changed them.
- What did Paul mean that Christians are to be "pitied" most of all if this life is all there is?
- What is lost if the resurrection is false? What is secured if the resurrection is true?
- In what way did Christ's resurrection lead the way for our resurrection from death?
- What did Paul mean when he wrote that Jesus was the "first fruits" of those who have fallen asleep?

DISCUSS:

- Is there a danger of losing the significance of Christ's resurrection in our culture today? Why or why not?
- Why do you think some people have a problem with the concept of Jesus' physical resurrection?
- When did the reality of the resurrection of Christ first impact you?
- Is Christianity worthwhile if all that is left is good morals? Is it beneficial to have faith in Christ if He did not rise from the dead? Why or why not? What does it make us if Christ did not rise from the dead?
- How have you seen the fear of death enslave people? Have you ever felt enslaved by the fear of death? How can the truth of Christ's resurrection help you/others have a proper perspective of death?
- How does the resurrection secure our hope regarding loved one who have passed on before us? How should Christ's resurrection impact our daily living?

PRAY:

Who do you know that needs to hear about the resurrection of Christ and the hope of the gospel? Take time to pray for them today.

RESPOND:

Our hope is not in our own ability, or in our goodness, or in our physical strength. Our hope is instilled in us by the resurrection of Christ. Commit this week to share with someone the hope you have found in the resurrection of Christ.



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QUOTE:

We cannot doubt something without simultaneously trusting in something else. - Michael Polanyi

The Corinthians put their faith in the thing they should have doubted (the world) and put their doubt in the thing they should have had faith in (the resurrection of Christ).

If the resurrection of Christ did not happen, then Christianity is a lie and heaven is a myth. An unopened tomb means an unopened Heaven.

6 implications if Jesus had not risen from the dead:

1. Without the resurrection, preaching is in vain.
2. Without the resurrection, faith is in vain.
3. Without the resurrection, we are liars.
4. Without the resurrection, our sins are unforgiven.
5. Without the resurrection, death is final.
6. Without the resurrection, we have no hope.