

# EASTER 2022

## BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION

Pastor Chad Gilligan | April 16 & 17, 2022

*We Are Here Today Because of  
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ!*

### I. BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION, DOUBT BECOMES FAITH

**1 Corinthians 15:12-14** But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

**1 Corinthians 15:20** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

#### *A. Proofs of the Resurrection*

##### 1.) Early Historic Accounts

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

##### 2.) Empty Tomb

**Matthew 28:11-15** While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup> telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ <sup>14</sup> If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” <sup>15</sup> So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

*“The site of Jesus’ tomb was known to Christian and Jew alike. So if it weren’t empty, it would be impossible for a movement founded on belief in the Resurrection to have come into existence in the same city where this man had been publicly executed and buried.” — William Lane Craig*

##### 3.) Eyewitness Testimony

**1 Corinthians 15:5-8** and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

#### 4.) Extreme Life Change

*"I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world-and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."* **Charles Colson**

**1 Corinthians 15:14-17** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup> More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

#### ***B. Your faith is not futile.***

**Matthew 28:8** So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

**Matthew 28:16-17** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

- If you never had doubts, you would never need faith.

## **II. BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION, SIN BECOMES FORGIVEN**

**1 Corinthians 15:17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

- Because of Jesus resurrection, you do not have to still be in your sins!

#### ***A. Your Sins Can Be Forgiven***

**Romans 4:25 (NLT)** He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

#### ***B. Your Past Is Not Your Future***

**Romans 8:1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

### *C. Your Life Can Experience Freedom*

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

## **III. BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION, DEATH BECOMES HOPE**

1 Corinthians 15:18-19 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:19 *(KJV)* If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.

### *A. Resurrection Offers The Hope of Heaven*

1 Corinthians 15:18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

1 Corinthians 15:51-55 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.<sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.<sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”<sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.