



What is Real?

Week 4 | Why Is Jesus's Resurrection So Important?

| KEY THOUGHTS

- Death is a hurdle we all have to face, but it's a great unknown. What if we could approach it with truth? What if someone had traveled that road before us, and for us, and revealed what the reality is?
- Paul showed the believers in Corinth how to think about their faith; he took a false belief (that there is no resurrection) and carried it out to its logical conclusion: **If Christ hasn't been resurrected, then...**
 - **our faith is illegitimate,**
 - the Bible is lying,
 - and we're still under God's wrath.
- Paul helps us understand that **resurrection is a supernatural work of God.**
 - It's coming back to life, but more: it's a new life, similar to the old, but different.
 - It's human nature restored to its pristine strength and perfection, and even raised to a higher level.
- Paul's main point: **Jesus's resurrection is the absolute bedrock of Christian faith. Without the resurrection, there is no Christianity.**
- Because the resurrection is true, we can know...
 - Jesus is God's Son;
 - **God accepted His sacrifice on the cross as the ultimate and final payment of sin**—no sacrifice remains to be performed;
 - God kept His promise from the beginning;
 - Our faith is real;
 - There is real life after death, and it will be glorious for those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ.

| SCRIPTURE

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But 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 preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ 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. 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 futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:12-23 (ESV)

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- If all this is true, what do I do?
 - Believe;
 - Understand;
 - Share.
- How do I believe?
 - Make the choice who I will follow: myself, the world, or Jesus?
 - Jesus said anyone who follows Him must, “Deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
 - *Deny himself* means setting aside self-interest, selfish desires, self-leadership;
 - *Take up his cross* means being willing to endure whatever may come;
 - *Follow me* means allowing the Holy Spirit to shape your character to be like Jesus, and to go where Jesus goes.
- How can I understand?
 - Read the Bible, engage in it, asking the indwelling Holy Spirit to help you comprehend;
 - Meet with other believers to talk about your faith and discuss your questions;
 - Grab a solid theology book and dive into deeper thoughts about God—not as a replacement of the Scriptures, but as an add-on;
 - A good place to start is *Bible Doctrine* by Wayne Grudem. You don’t have to agree with everything the writer says, because he’s not Jesus. But you can learn from what others say.
- Why should I share?
 - When you experience the resurrection of Christ for yourself, the natural outflow is to invite others into that;
 - The work of the Lord is sharing the gospel and discipling others;
 - He’s still doing His redeeming work, and He invites us to join Him in it;
 - We can know that our labor is not in vain, because it’s His work, not ours.

| REFLECT

- When it comes to the subject of dying, everyone wants to hope for something, but many don't know what to hope for. Is it possible to take comfort in something that sounds good, but without any assurance that it's true?
- Everybody believes in something, but not everything holds up to the light of the Scriptures.
- The concept of the resurrection goes against everything we know in our existence; but the evidence of it in the scriptures, in history, and in the testimony of countless changed lives is overwhelming. What will you do with that?

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