

12. The Resurrection of Christ

1 Corinthians 15:12-22

Three days after Christ died, He rose again, exactly according to the Scriptures and what He had Himself prophesied. He gave witness to this by appearing at various times throughout forty days, mainly to His disciples, before ascending to heaven:

Acts 1:3

To whom [the apostles] also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

[3] 他受害之後，用许多的凭据将自己活活的显给使徒看，四十天之久向他们显现，讲说神国的事。

The resurrection is important. Many today laugh at the concept of rising from the dead.

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

[12] 既传基督是从死里复活了，怎麽在你们中间有人说没有死人复活的事呢？

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

[13] 若没有死人复活的事，基督也就没有复活了。

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

[14] 若基督没有复活，我们所传的便是枉然，你们所信的也是枉然；

We're told that without the resurrection of Christ, our faith collapses, and all we preach is in vain. And there are several reasons for this:

Firstly, people don't believe in the resurrection from the dead, because they've never seen such a thing for themselves. But we've still got sufficient witness. The Bible is all we need. We're told:

Luke 16:31

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

[31] 亚伯拉罕说：若不听从摩西和先知的話，就是有一个从死里复活的，他们也是不听劝。

Just because nobody has seen anyone come back from the dead is no excuse. There will be a general resurrection at the end of time. We can't think we can escape judgment by dying. Death is not the end:

Acts 24:15

.... there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

[15] 都要复活，就是他们自己也有这个盼望。

Daniel 12:2

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

[2] 睡在尘埃中的，必有多人复醒。其中有得永生的，有受羞辱永远被憎恶的。

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

[15] 并且明显我们是为神妄作见证的，因我们见证神是叫基督复活了。若死人真不复活，神也就没有叫基督复活了。

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

[16] 因为死人若不复活，基督也就没有复活了。

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

[17] 基督若没有复活，你们的信便是徒然，你们仍在罪里。

Secondly, we're told here that if Christ has not been raised, we are yet in our sins. Christ's resurrection proves God the Father accepted His atonement. Otherwise we'd never know if His death had been accepted or not, so we'd have no assurance, no peace, no joy.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

[18] 就是在基督里睡了的人也灭亡了。

Thirdly, we'd have no hope for all those who have already died. But Christ's atonement reaches all believers in all times, not just those after His death:

Hebrews 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

[2] 因为有福音传给我们，像传给他们一样；只是所听见的道与他们无益，因为他们没有信心与所听见的道调和。

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

[19] 我们若靠基督，只在今生有指望，就算比众人更可怜。

Christianity is primarily for the next life. I remember seeing a Christian Aid poster a few years ago, which said, "We believe in life before death." As though Christianity was all about life, here, now. But Christianity is primarily about being reconciled to God, avoiding the punishment for our sins in the next world. We still have a life to live in this world. As long as we're alive here, we have work to do for the Lord. But the most important thing here is to get right with God, because the next world is eternal. Thinking Christianity is for this world only is a big mistake. People say Christians can be "too heavenly-minded to be any earthly use." But our problem is our worldliness. We're not heavenly-minded enough.

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

[20] 但基督已经从死里复活，成为睡了之人初熟的果子。

And Christ's resurrection is the firstfruits of God's harvest. It shows there will be a harvest. A number that no man could number will be saved through Him:

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

[9] 此後，我观看，见有许多的人，没有人能数过来，是从各国、各族、各民、各方来的，站在宝座和羔羊面前，身穿白衣，手拿棕树枝，[10] 大声喊着说：愿救恩归与坐在宝座上我们的神，也归与羔羊！

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

[21] 死既是因一人而来，死人复活也是因一人而来。

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

[22] 在亚当里众人都死了；照样，在基督里众人也都要复活。

Just as Adam, the first man, ate of the forbidden fruit and died, taking all of us with him, so we're all born in sin, so Christ, one man, makes all His people alive again by forgiving their sins and making them new creatures in Him.

Romans 5:18-19

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

[18] 如此说来，因一次的过犯，众人都被定罪；照样，因一次的义行，众人也就被称义得生命了。[19] 因一人的悖逆，众人成为罪人；照样，因一人的顺从，众人也成为义了。