

**JESUS' BODILY RESURRECTION IS CRUCIAL
THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST – PART 4
1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-15**

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS CENTRAL TO THE GOSPEL

1. To preach **Jesus Christ** is to preach His **resurrection** (1 Cor. 15:12).
2. The Corinthian Christians generally **believed** in Jesus' resurrection and that He was **presently** alive (1 Cor. 15:1, 11).
3. In light of Jesus' resurrection that conquered death, how can the resurrection of **dead** Christians be **questioned** (1 Cor. 15:12b)?
4. "If" Jesus is still dead, then **nothing** is settled and we live in a **random** universe with no predictable outcome.

KEY THOUGHT: All the Apostles were preaching Jesus' resurrection supported by the empirical **evidence** of their **own** physical sight, sound, and touch (1 Cor. 15:5-11).

FOUR THEOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES TO NO RESURRECTION

I. IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION, JESUS WOULD BE DEAD (1 COR. 15:13).

- A. The witnesses to Jesus' resurrection were **numerous** and authoritative (1 Cor. 15:5-11).
 1. The accounts of Jesus' earthly ministry were of a person who was entirely **human** and entirely **God** (Phil. 2:1-5).
 2. Jesus' disciples **touched** His physical body after the resurrection, and He even **ate** with them (Luke 24:39-43).
- B. Jesus' resurrection evidenced both His **humanity** and His **deity** (Rev. 1:17-18).
 1. Peter testified at Pentecost to Jesus' **dual** nature (Acts 2:22-23).
 2. Peter later declared Jesus' **bodily** resurrection in the same sermon (Acts 2:31-32).

KEY THOUGHT: Paul addresses the divine and human **natures** of Jesus and the **central** truth of the resurrection as he started his letter to the Roman Christians (Romans 1:3-4).

II. THE GOSPEL WOULD BE WORTHLESS (1 COR. 15:14a).

- A. The **heart** of the Gospel is the **resurrection** of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- B. Logic would say, if the resurrection did not occur, then the message being preached was “**empty**” and “**useless**” (1 Cor. 15:14a).

KEY THOUGHT: God never intended that anyone should come to know Him by their exercise of **wisdom**, but by the **cross** and the empty **tomb** solely (1 Cor. 1:21).

III. OUR FAITH WOULD BE IN VAIN (1 COR. 15:14b).

- A. Faith in a false gospel would be empty, void of **power**, and to no **purpose** (1 Cor. 15:14b).
- B. If the **gospel** was false, then their **faith** was a sham.

KEY THOUGHT: Peter became the early spokesman for the New Testament church after his encounter with Jesus on the **beach** in **Galilee** (John 21:15-19).

IV. ALL THE WITNESSES TO, AND PREACHERS OF, THE RESURRECTION WOULD BE LIARS (1 COR. 15:15).

- A. The Gospel is **transformative** and not a collection of pithy sayings in which to use as advice for living a **good** life (2 Cor. 3:18).
- B. This deception would have been intentional and willful; dishonest men as a whole do not allow their bodies to be brutally tortured, loved ones imprisoned and become martyrs for a **blatant lie**.

KEY THOUGHT: Paul will shortly write “Jesus has **risen**” and all who would be raised were the first fruits from the grave (1 Cor. 15:20).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

February 20, 2011

SUNDAY: *The resurrection of Jesus is central to the Gospel message (1 Cor. 15:5-11)!*

There is no good news without the bodily resurrection of Jesus. To preach Jesus is to preach His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12). The Greek world did not believe in resurrection from the dead as a culture. However, the Corinthian Christians generally believed in Jesus' resurrection and that He was presently alive (1 Cor. 15:1, 11). Paul had been trying to move them to understand that Jesus' resurrection meant that they too would be resurrected as believers. In light of Jesus' resurrection that conquered death, how can the resurrection of dead Christians be questioned (1 Cor. 15:12b)? Paul reasoned that "if" Jesus is still dead, then nothing is settled and we live in a random universe with no predictable outcome. The biblical evidence is overwhelming that Jesus resurrected from the grave. All the Apostles were preaching Jesus' resurrection supported by the empirical evidence of their own eyewitness accounts (1 Cor. 15:5-11). Praise God for the divine accounts of the Resurrection in the Bible. *May the truth of the Resurrection be life-shaping for you as a Christian!*

MONDAY: *There were numerous witnesses to the bodily resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:39-43)*

The witnesses to Jesus' resurrection were authoritative in their testimony (1 Cor. 15:5-11). We see throughout the four gospel accounts that Jesus' earthly life and ministry reported He was entirely human. Some critics say that Jesus' resurrection was only in Spirit. Yet, His disciples touched His physically resurrected body, and Jesus even ate a meal with them (Luke 24:39-43). The Bible is the most authoritative witness for any Christian. Furthermore, that authoritative witness has substantial eyewitness accounts of Jesus' bodily resurrection. Jesus is alive! He has risen! He has risen indeed! Thank the Father for your salvation that is rooted in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Seek to live in the power of your resurrected Savior. *May the full weight of the resurrection of Jesus register in your heart and motivate you to personal holiness!*

TUESDAY: *Jesus' resurrection evidenced both His humanity and His deity (Rev. 1:17-18)!*

When the Apostle John writes the account of his vision of heaven, he shares of his encounter with the glorified Christ. Jesus responded to John falling at His feet, "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore (v. 18)." Jesus died as a man. The wrath of God for sin was exhausted against Him on the cross. Jesus was bodily resurrected and appeared for 40 days to His disciples before ascending into heaven (Luke 24:49-53). While still on earth Jesus was touched by His disciples and ate food with them. He was also able to enter locked rooms and appear in different physical places miles apart in distance. Jesus' resurrected body evidenced both His humanity and His deity. Sit quietly before the Lord this day to praise His sovereign mercy and grace that has been poured out for your salvation. Seek to be in God's presence and rise to walk in obedience to His commands for personal holiness. *May the overwhelming love of God move your heart to a permanent state of gratitude and love that manifests itself in your actions and words!*

WEDNESDAY: *The Gospel would be gutted without the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-4)!*

The heart of the Gospel message is the resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Some questioned the resurrection of Jesus. Paul offered logic that says if the resurrection did not occur, then the message being preached was “empty” and “useless” (1 Cor. 15:14b). First, the authoritative Word of God says that the resurrection exists and even offers excellent support testimony to that end. Additionally, it is hard to argue against the life-changing impact of the gospel upon genuine believers. Does your life offer that undeniable proof for transformation? Is your proclamation of God’s grace in your life consistent with how you live your life? Do you make a conscious effort to allow Jesus to live through your life each day (Gal. 2:20)? Ask the Lord how these questions could be answered affirmatively in your life. ***May the Holy Spirit’s leadership be followed to bring personal holiness into your life!***

THURSDAY: *Faith in a false gospel is worthless and vain (1 Cor. 15: 14b)!*

God never intended anyone should come to know Him by their exercise of wisdom. Everyone who comes to faith in Jesus comes by the way of the cross and the empty tomb (1 Cor. 1:21). Faith in a false gospel would be empty, lifeless, devoid of power, and to no purpose (1 Cor. 15:14b). Obviously, if the gospel was false then their faith would be a sham. Peter was one of the key witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection. Peter was a spokesman for the New Testament church after his encounter with Jesus along a beach in Galilee (John 21:15-19). Peter’s transformation was consistent with those that professed Jesus as Lord and Savior. Is your life demonstrating the qualities of salvation? Ask the Lord to identify sin in your life and confess it for forgiveness. Surrender the areas of your life where you remain selfish and self-preserving. ***May the genuine Gospel bring not only your salvation but provide your purpose for living!***

FRIDAY: *The Gospel brings transformation to a believer’s life (2 Cor. 3:18)!*

The Gospel had transformed thousands of lives within a few years of Jesus’ ascension. The Gospel is not a collection of pithy sayings that offer helpful hints to a better life. The Gospel is transformative (2 Cor. 2:18). The Christian is not someone who has turned over a new leaf to get a fresh start in life. Christianity is not about producing a better version of your old self. The Gospel creates an entirely new being in your old body. If the resurrection was not true, then all the witnesses to, and the preachers of, the Gospel would be liars. The deception would have been intentional and willful. Dishonest men as a whole do not allow their bodies to be brutally tortured, loved ones imprisoned, and become martyrs themselves for a blatant lie. Pause and be still before the Lord to seek His next assignment for you. What in your life prevents others from seeing your transformed nature? Who could you ask to tell you that important answer? Thank the Lord for His patience with your spiritual growth. ***May the growth you experience be lasting and kingdom building!***

SATURDAY: *The resurrection of Jesus is a promise to all believers that they will one day rise again (1 Cor. 15:20)!*

Are you confident of your eternal security? It has been said that trust and worry cannot coexist in a person’s life. Do you worry about what you can do, or do you emphatically trust God to do exactly what He said He would do? Do you have worries today that prevent you from being the servant of Christ that you need to be? Are they related to finances, age, health, or other people’s view of you? You are one of God’s children who will rise again from the dead! Praise God today and ask Him how you can please Him with your faithful service. ***May these be the greatest days of your life as a Christian, filled with purpose and intimacy with Him!***