

**THE CONSEQUENCES OF NO RESURRECTION
THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST – PART 5
1 CORINTHIANS 15:16-19**

THE THEOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES

1. If there is no resurrection, Jesus would be **dead** (1 Cor. 15:13).
2. If there is no resurrection, the Gospel would be **worthless** (1 Cor. 15:14a).
3. If there is no resurrection, our faith would be in **vain** (1 Cor. 15:14b).
4. If there is no resurrection, all the witnesses and preachers of it would be **liars** (1 Cor. 15:15).

KEY THOUGHT: If there is no resurrection, the impact on **believers** would be **devastating** (1 Cor. 15:16-19).

THREE PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES TO BELIEVERS...

I. ALL MEN WOULD BE IN THEIR SIN (1 COR. 15:16-17).

- A. If Jesus was dead in the tomb, it would be a **disaster** from which other consequences would erupt (1 Cor. 15:16).
 1. Jesus described physical death without believing in Him as Lord and Savior as the **fatal eternal** sin (John 8:21, 24).
 2. All other **sins** can be **forgiven** if this one sin is repented of.
- B. You are **saved** from sin's consequences when trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins (1 Cor. 15:3-4).
 1. God resurrected Jesus to **victory** over sin and every believer's **justification** (Rom. 4:24-25).
 2. Because Jesus lives **today**, we shall live **eternally** (John 14:19).

KEY THOUGHT: Jesus was raised by God to be our **Prince** and Savior (Acts 5:30-31).

II. ALL FORMER BELIEVERS HAVE ETERNALLY PERISHED (1 COR. 15:18).

- A. Jesus drew the sting from death, the pagans unassailable adversary (1 Cor. 15:55).
- B. Death is now “gain” to the Christian because Paul said he can now depart and be with Christ (Phil. 1:21-22).

KEY THOUGHT: If there is no resurrection, then every giant of the faith we have known is being tormented in hell now and for eternity.

III. CHRISTIANS WOULD BE THE MOST PITIABLE PEOPLE ON EARTH (1 COR. 15:19).

- A. The life of a Christian is not easy, but it has great joy along with the trials (2 Cor. 6:4-10).
- B. Christians are not pitied because our lives are filled with Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 2:20).

KEY THOUGHT: We are not to be pitied because Jesus is alive, and we will live with Him in heaven (1 Cor. 15:20).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

February 27, 2011

SUNDAY: ***The foundation of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:12-15)!*** The cornerstone of Christianity is the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4). If there is no resurrection, then Jesus would still be dead, and we would not have the hope of eternal life (1 Cor. 15:13). The Gospel would be worthless and our faith would be in vain without the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:14). All those acting as witnesses to the resurrection, or who have ever proclaimed Jesus' resurrection, would be liars (1 Cor. 15:15). The resurrection is fact first, but foremost, it is true because the Bible says it occurred. Second, there are a significant number of witnesses that testified to His resurrection. But most importantly, there have been millions of lives transformed at the point of accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Pause today and sit still before the Lord and picture the resurrection in your mind. Praise the Father for the sacrifice of the Son for sin and for man's redemption. ***May your reflection on the resurrection begin a great week of fellowship with God!***

MONDAY: ***Failure to believe in Jesus is the sin that condemns a person to hell (John 8:21, 24)!*** If the resurrection had never occurred, mankind would still be under the penalty for its sin (1 Cor. 15:16-17). It is not sin in general that separates the unredeemed man from God. The sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is the fatal and eternal sin (John 8:21, 24). All of your other sins are forgiven when you address the core of your sinfulness. Surrendering your life to Jesus absolutely cleanses your life from the stain of sin for today and eternity. Praise God for His plan to redeem you from slavery to sin and purchase your soul with the blameless blood of Jesus on the cross (1 Peter 1:19). Thank Him for your salvation again, and pledge your commitment to Him. ***May the resurrection be a constant reminder of God's infinite love and provision for His children!***

TUESDAY: ***The resurrection saved every believer from the consequences of sin (1 Cor. 15:3-4)!*** God's resurrection of Jesus from the dead gave every Christian victory over sin and death (Rom. 4:24-25). The penalty for the sin of the redeemed believer was justified and marked paid in full by Jesus' actions on the cross. Jesus' death was real, and His lifeless body was prepared for burial and sealed in the stone tomb. The thief was with Jesus in heaven the very day they died, and God raised Christ from the grave on the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Jesus is alive today! Because Jesus lives today, we shall live eternally in heaven (John 14:19). This is the Good News of the Gospel. The resurrection has given us all a second chance. What are you doing with your second chance? Are you blessing others around you so they see God has a significant force in your life? Do others see God's hand on your life and, therefore, want to know him personally? Meditate on how you will live your life today. Ask for the strength to live exactly as Jesus would if He walked in your shoes today. ***May the beauty of your spiritual healing flood your soul and be seen by everyone that encounters you today!***

WEDNESDAY: *Jesus was raised from the dead to be our Prince and Savior (Acts 5:30-31)!*

When God inspired Luke to describe Jesus as our Prince, He had a particular meaning in mind (Acts 5:31). Jesus is the Prince of Life (3:15). The Greek word for Prince means “originator, beginner, or pioneer” of something. In this case, Jesus is the supernatural originator of eternal life. Throughout the scriptures, it reports of Jesus being raised by the Father from the dead (Acts 3:15; 5:30-31). Men who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior have their sin of unbelief forgiven which leads to the forgiveness of all sin (1 John 1:9). Believing in Jesus as Lord and Savior makes Him your Prince of Life! Who would you like to introduce to the Prince of Life? How can you bless your friend and demonstrate the transformation God brings into your life? Pray for the passion to love your friends enough to remember to live as a blessing from God in their lives. *May your understanding of the Prince of Life lead you to share Him with others!*

THURSDAY: *Death is not an adversary for the Christian (1 Cor. 15:55)!*

Money, fame, and political power have never been able to save anyone from the clutches of death. However, for the Christian, Jesus drew the sting from death (1 Cor. 15:55). There is no fear of death if it is as temporary as a nap. In fact, death is now “gain” for the Christian. Paul said that dying would allow him to depart to be with Jesus (Phil. 1:21-22). Death is a doorway to heaven and to being in the presence of God. Then why do we fear it so much? Pray for our love for this world to be less bonding and our love for heaven to grow. Ask the Lord to strengthen the draw of fellowship with Him that would cause us to introduce others to Him. *May the thought of death be accepted as a reality needed to gain the presence of God!*

FRIDAY: *The evaluation of a Christian’s life is with non-material criteria (2 Cor. 6:4-10)!*

The most convincing proof of our status in the faith is patient endurance of character reflected in hardships like the ones Paul outlines (2 Cor. 6:4-10). There will be persecution from others and the anguish of personal deprivation. The Christian invests his time, talent, and treasure differently than someone would in the secular world. The Christian invests in ministry and for the benefit of others. The richness of the Christian life is not measured in money or earthly wealth, but in the blessings of serving God and communion with Him (v. 10). The resurrection makes this dimension of life possible for you in Christ. Be still before God and reflect on every relationship, blessing, and ministry opportunity the Lord has given you in the past few years. Promise Him you will seek to please Him with your service to others and your devoted worship of Him. *May your understanding of what is important to the Lord continue to grow so your service is a sweet offering to Him!*

SATURDAY: *Jesus is alive (1 Cor. 15:20)!*

The first installment of fruit for eternal life was our Lord Jesus. It is Jesus’ resurrection that all Christians will participate (John 14:19). Death is our last enemy that needed to be conquered. Sin was overcome on the cross, and death was defeated when Jesus arose from the tomb. Christians are the most blessed of people, and we have the promise to live forever with Jesus in heaven. Who are you praying for and sharing with who needs the Prince of Life? How can the Lord use you to bless the people you come into contact with each day? Praise the Lord for your salvation and ask how you can be His instrument to see the grace of the love of God. *May the power and reality of Jesus’ resurrection strengthen your faith the longer you meditate and reflect on it!*