

The Resurrection – A Foundation Stone

Text : **I Corinthians 15:12-20**

INTRODUCTION :

A. The Easter holiday is celebrated throughout the Christian world.

1. Though “Easter” is not mentioned in the bible, it commemorates the singular most important day thus far in human history.
 - a. **Acts 12:3-4** ... The KJV deliberately mistranslates “*pascha*.” (Not NKJV)
 - b. It appears 29 times in the N.T., but is translated every other place as “**Passover**.”
 - c. King James ordered the change as one of his preconditions for payment to translators.
*** Changing “immersion” to “baptism” was another precondition for payment.**
2. The historical date of the resurrection of Jesus can be accurately calculated.
 - a. He arose on the day after the Jewish Passover Sabbath.
 - b. Thus, Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the Passover Saturday.

B. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

1. Christians remember the resurrection of Jesus each Sunday in the communion.
2. Easter celebrates the calendar date when the blessed event occurred.
3. Though the Easter holiday is not commanded, **Rom. 14** permits its observance.

With this lesson we will observe some reasons why the event marked by Easter is the single most important event thus far in human history.

I. The scriptures proclaim the resurrection to be fundamental to our faith.

A. The resurrection is to be taught to all before they can become a Christian.

1. **Heb. 6: 1-2** **Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.**
2. **Read & Exegete ... I Cor. 15: 1-8** ... It was the core of apostolic preaching.

B. **Mark 16: 15-16** ... The gospel is to be preached to all.

1. Faith in the “**gospel**” is a prerequisite to salvation.
2. The “**gospel**” includes the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

II. **THUS, No one can be saved unless he believes in the bodily resurrection of Jesus.**

A. Those who do not believe in the resurrection (gospel) are condemned.

Mark 16:16- He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. (Cf. **Acts 13: 46**)

B. Those who do not continue believing in the resurrection have believed in vain.

I Cor. 15: 1-2 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

C. Our text explains some obvious consequences of denying the resurrection.

1. The message we preach (the gospel) is worthless.

- a. **Read ...** Vs. **14** Our faith is vain.
- b. **Read ...** Vs. **15** We are preaching a lie.
- c. **Read ...** Vs. **17** We are still in our sins.
- d. **Read ...** Vs. **18** Those who have already died in Christ have no hope.

2. If Christ is not raised, Christians are to be pitied.

- a. **Read ...** Vs. **19**
- b. Some Christians say, *“If we are wrong, we’ve still had a good life.”*
- c. Wrong !! We’ve lived our whole life for a lie.

D. If Christ was not raised from the grave, we can trust nothing that He said.

1. Jesus repeatedly predicted that he would be killed and raise from the dead.

- a. **Read ...** **John 2: 18-22**
- b. **Read ...** **John 10: 17-18**

2. He claimed His resurrection was the fulfillment of O.T. prophecy.

- a. **Luke 24:44-47** Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45** Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46** and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, **47** and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
- b. **Matt. 12: 38-42** ... Jesus asserted that **Jonah** was a type of Him.

III. The resurrection is the keystone to the Christian faith.

A. The gospel of Jesus the Christ is the foundation of the Christian religion.

1. **I Cor. 3: 10-11** According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. **11** For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
2. **I Cor. 15: 1-3** ... The foundational preaching of Paul about Jesus was the gospel.

B. The credibility of Jesus and of HIS gospel is established by the empty tomb.

1. The resurrection is that which distinguished Jesus from those crucified with Him.
 - a. The thieves were both killed, but they stayed dead. (*Criminal not always buried.*)
 - b. Man can preserve a body, but he can't make it live again.
2. Jesus proved Himself unique among men by coming forth from the grave.

Rom. 1: 3-4 ... concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, **4** who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

IV. What does this mean to us ?

A. Knowing that Jesus has been raised, we are confident to pray.

1. Jesus is in Heaven with God mediating for us.

Rom. 8: 33-34 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
2. We are confident that we need no other mediator to take us before God's throne.

I Tim. 2: 5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** Who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.
3. The risen Christ will never die, **He'll always be there for us.**

Heb. 7:25- Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

B. Because Jesus has proven himself to be God, we can believe all He promised.

1. **John 10: 27-28** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.
2. **Mark 16:16**- He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; ...
3. **John 14: 3**- If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.
 - 6- Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

C. Because Jesus is risen, we can trust that we'll also be raised up on the last day.

1. **I Cor. 15: 20**- But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.
 - a. "The first fruits" are a promise a harvest.
 - b. If the first fruits of the resurrection are already harvested, surely others will follow.
 - c. Compare ... **John 6: 39-40** ... Believers will be saved and raised up.
2. **Rom. 8: 11**- But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
3. **I Thes. 4: 13-18** ... **Summarize and exegete**

D. Because Jesus is risen we can believe His promise of Judgment to come.

1. **Read & Exegete ... John 5: 25-29** (Cf. **Matt. 25: 31-33**)
2. The date for the judgment has been set :

Acts 17: 30-31 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."
3. Judgment is part of the gospel message we must preach.
 - a. **Heb. 6:2** – (**vs. 1** Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ,) ... of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.
 - b. **Acts 24:25**- But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."
 - c. **Rom. 14: 10-11** ... Every knee shall bow before the judgment seat of God.
 - d. **Heb. 9: 27**- ... it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

CONCLUSION :

A. How does one respond to his faith in the resurrection ?

1. He must make a faith response to a doctrine about the resurrection.
Read ... Rom. 6: 15-18
2. That faith response includes turning away from living in sin.
Read ... Rom. 6: 1-2
3. That faith response also includes being immersed in baptism.
Read ... Rom. 6: 3
4. One must first be buried with Christ before he can walk (live) with Him.
Read ... Rom. 6: 4
5. Only those who have been buried with Jesus will be resurrected in His likeness.
Read ... Rom. 6: 5
 - a. **I John 3: 2- Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.**
 - b. **Read ... I Cor. 15: 42-50 ... Your new body will live forever.**
6. After being united with Christ, one must live like Christ.
Read ... Rom. 6: 6-11

B. This new relationship with God is only made possible because Jesus rose from the grave proving His power over death.

Read ... I Cor. 15: 24-25, 54

1. Jesus had made death a temporary condition.
 - a. All who have died will rise again.
 - b. YOU will rise from the grave.
2. Where will your eternal body dwell ?
 - a. Those who are in Christ on the earth will be with Him in eternity.
 - b. Those who die separated from God will remain separated eternally.

INVITATION : Are you walking with God ?