

INI Hymns:

Easter

1 Corinthians 15:12-23

Sermon 25-22

04/20/25

We already know Jesus' resurrection happened. If God says it happened we believe it because God's word is truth. So today instead of focusing on how we prove Jesus' resurrection, we want to think about what Jesus' Resurrection proves. Paul follows the same pattern. After giving us some of the proofs of Jesus resurrection by naming many eyewitnesses, He goes on to show what Jesus' resurrection proves. He describes what it would mean for us if Christ was not risen from the dead. If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, that would prove that He was a fraud and that the Jews were right to crucify Him. But then Paul confidently affirms that Christ is Risen from the dead. Therefore, His resurrection proves that Jesus was telling the truth. So

Before the World, Jesus was Exonerated!

1 Corinthians 15:12-23

"12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Jesus' Resurrection really is the Key to Everything. We're going to briefly look at 8 things Jesus' resurrection proves. First of all

-I- Christ's Resurrection Proves Jesus is the Eternal Son of God!

Paul says that "God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord, was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." Romans 1:2-4. Jesus spoke to His disciples many times about His death and He always said on the third day He will rise. Anyone can say they will rise from the dead, but to actually do it, that proves they were telling the truth. And if Jesus was telling the truth about what is the most impossible then you can be sure that all His claims are true. He truly is the Son of God. And all His promises are reliable. In Fact Christ's resurrection proves a second thing.

-II- Christ's Resurrection Proves that the Bible is True!

Earlier in the chapter Paul said that Jesus "was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." God had foretold throughout the Old Testament, not only Jesus' death, but also His resurrection. On Good Friday we looked at Isaiah 53 which said that the Messiah would suffer and die and then God says, "He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand." And God said, "I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong." Vs. 12 If He will do all those things after He died, obviously He must rise from the dead.

Psalm 118:22-24 says, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone." The builders were the Priests and Scribes. They rejected Jesus and crucified Him. Yet God made Him the chief cornerstone of His Church. That too implies His resurrection.

Psalm 16:10 states it even more directly. The Messiah says, "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption." On Pentecost Peter affirmed that this is a prophecy of Jesus' resurrection. His body would not remain in the grave or decay, He would rise from the dead.

When you think about it, every time a lamb was sacrificed, it testified to the death of the Messiah. And every time the Old Testament talks about Messiah reigning, and about His kingdom, it speaks about a living Messiah, therefore the one who dies must come back to life in order to reign.

All prophecy is proven true by its fulfillment. So Jesus' resurrection according to the Scriptures, proves that the Scripture is true and that it is God's word, for no mere man could predict someone rising from the dead, and it come true. Paul says, "If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty ... Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise." If Jesus did not rise, you might as well throw away your Bible. You couldn't trust anything. But Jesus did rise from the dead and we have many infallible proofs. Jesus' resurrection demonstrates that the Bible is true and we can trust and depend upon every word of Scripture.

-III- Christ's Resurrection Proves that our Faith is NOT Futile.

Paul says it twice, this is so important. "If Christ is not risen, then ... your faith is also empty." And again in verse 17, "If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile." The world is constantly trying to tell us that our faith is futile and utterly foolish. That would be true if Jesus did not rise from the dead. However, Since Jesus did rise from the dead our faith is not futile. We will be blessed for trusting Jesus' promises. We will not be disappointed. Consider some of the great truths that we count on because Jesus rose.

-IV- Our Sins are Forgiven!

Verse 17 says, "If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!" If Jesus did not rise, we would still be in our sins, we would still be under God's wrath and would have to suffer His punishment for our sins for ourselves. Thank God that Jesus is truly risen from the dead and our sins are forgiven.

Romans 4:25 says that Jesus "was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification." As we discussed on Good Friday, the Bible testifies from beginning to end that Jesus died to pay for our sins. When God raised Jesus from the dead, that was His stamp of approval that the price was paid in full. It was the Father's way of saying, "I am satisfied with the sacrifice that He made." We truly have been justified, declared righteous. Our sins are gone.

-V- Christ has truly Ascended to the Right Hand of the Father and Rules Over All.

Paul says God "raised [Jesus] from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Eph. 1:19-23 If Jesus did not rise from the dead, this too, would be a lie. He can't be ruling over all things in heaven and on earth if He is dead. But since Jesus rose, we can be sure this too is true. Jesus Christ is ruling all things, and He does so "for the Church." Our lives are in His hands. We can trust Him completely. He who was willing to give His life for us, now takes perfect care of us. Since He is at the Right hand of God,

-VI- He also intercedes for us before the Father.

Hebrews 7:25 says, "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." He can save us because He lives to make intercession for us. Our flesh and blood brother, the One who knows our weaknesses and was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. (Heb. 4:15) He is always pleading our case before the Father. Obviously He can't plead for us if He is still dead. We can see how important this is if we look at Peter the night of Jesus trial before the Sanhedrin. Jesus foretold Peter's denial and then said, "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail." If Jesus had not prayed for Peter his faith would have failed. He would have been lost. But Jesus prayed for him and God restored him. Jesus continues to do the same for us because He lives and is at the right hand of the Father.

-VII- We Also Receive the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told His disciples before He died, "I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; if I do not go away, the Holy Spirit will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And

when He comes, He will convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment.” John 16:7-8 If Jesus had not risen from the grave and ascended back to the Father, He never would have sent the Holy Spirit. Then no one would know anything about the true God.

Jesus tells us some other things the Holy Spirit does for us. “when the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth,” vs. 13 “He will bring all things to remembrance.” He will be “the guarantee of our inheritance.” Eph. 1:14. When He comes, He will take up residence in your heart, and your body will become the temple of God. (1 Cor. 6:19-20) Our whole life of faith depends on the Holy Spirit. If He didn’t rise, He couldn’t ascend, if He couldn’t ascend, He couldn’t send the Spirit. If He didn’t send the Holy Spirit there would be no Church. Thankfully Jesus did rise from the dead and send the Spirit. Finally

-VIII- Jesus resurrection proves We too will Rise from the Dead to eternal life with Him.

Paul says, “If Christ is not risen, ... you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.” Vs. 17-19. That is the main point that Paul is making in the whole chapter. Some of the believers in Corinth were beginning to doubt that there was going to be a resurrection from the dead to eternal life. They were probably being influenced by unbelievers who said that’s ridiculous. It’s impossible for people to rise from the dead. Paul shows that Jesus’ resurrection proves that it is not impossible to rise from the dead. Jesus did, so will we. Jesus promised that He would rise from the dead and He did. He also promised He will come again to raise all the dead to life, so we know we will. Then He will take all those who trusted in His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of their sins with Him to heaven.

Jesus proved that He conquered death. As He told Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, though He may die, yet He shall live, and whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” John 11:25 Jesus proved that first of all when He raised Lazarus from the dead and He proves it even more when rose from the dead Himself.

So Paul concludes, “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.” Paul uses the picture of the firstfruits because Jesus actually rose from the dead on the Festival of the First Fruits. The Jews brought the very first fruits of the harvest to the Lord as a guarantee that God would grant the rest of the harvest in abundance. So Jesus is the firstfruits of all who have died. He rose and He is the guarantee that all the rest will rise also.

Hymn 206, which we will sing at the close of our service, uses the picture of the Church being Christ’s Body and He is our Head. So the Hymn asks us to consider, “Shall I fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His members dead? Nay, too closely am I bound unto Him by hope forever.” There is simply no way that the head can rise and leave its body dead in the grave. So Christ’s resurrection is proof of our own resurrection. Jesus assures us, “Because I live, you will live also.” So we have every reason to rejoice today. Jesus lives! He is Risen from the dead. That is sure proof for us that

- 1. Jesus is the Eternal Son of God and Always speaks the Truth.**
- 2. The Bible is True!**
- 3. Our faith is NOT Futile.**
- 4. Our Sins are Forgiven!**
- 5. Christ has truly Ascended to the Right Hand of the Father and Rules Over All. He is with us always.**
- 6. He Intercedes for us before the Father.**
- 7. We Receive the Holy Spirit.** And because of all that,
- 8. We too will Rise from the dead to eternal life with Him.**

In short, every promise in the Bible is proven to be true and reliable by Jesus’ resurrection. This shall be my confidence!

Amen.