

**Easter Sunday - The Resurrection**  
**1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also...  
(1 Corinthians 15:3-8)*

*But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep  
(1 Corinthians 15:12-20).*

Believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is important because it gives new meaning to every area of our life.

**1. THE RESURRECTION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT CHANGES THE MEANING OF FAITH.**

*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins  
(1 Corinthians 15:17 NIV).*

Christ's resurrection gives us the assurance that our faith is not just a fairytale wish; this is the real deal. The truth of the resurrection has been passed down to us by reliable eyewitnesses, such as Paul who wrote 1 Corinthians. So because the resurrection is real, our faith can be solid, secure and stable.

**2. THE RESURRECTION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT CHANGES THE MEANING OF DEATH.**

It's because Christ rose from the dead that we can know that death is not the end. Death doesn't have power over us any more.

*"Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55 NIV)*

*"The last enemy to be destroyed is death." (1 Corinthians 15:26 NIV)*

**3. THE RESURRECTION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT CHANGES THE MEANING OF LIFE.**

*If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, then we're a pretty sorry lot (1 Corinthians 15:19 Msg)*

*"...all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12)*

If there is no resurrection—if this life is all there is—you would have to be a fool to live the

Christian life. In fact in our passage today, Paul says that if there is no resurrection then ...

*“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” (1 Corinthians 15:32 NIV)*

**WHAT NOW?**

- Jesus has conquered death and that means that your faith is not a waste of time.
- Are you ready to die? Is your account with God settled? Or do you still carry a guilty conscience? The resurrection is important because it can change your eternal destiny.
- The resurrection is important because it proves that Jesus has the power to help you manage the problems you face in life today.