



Because He Lives

Today, we're considering how the resurrection of Jesus affects our _____. Because Jesus arose bodily from the dead, we can know that our life on earth is not the _____. We'll live on _____ this life. Our bodies die, but our _____ live on. At death our spirits go back to _____ (Ecclesiastes 12:7). The Lord Jesus said at His death, "Father into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46). His resurrection on the third day, the first day of the week, means His prophecy proved _____. Truth matters; no one wants to be deceived about their _____ destiny. Only the Son of God, who never deceives, can be trusted about our salvation and eternal destiny.

The Lord Jesus came to Bethany to _____ Lazarus from the dead; Lazarus had been dead for _____ days. His loved ones were grieving. He told Martha, Lazarus' sister, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will _____ even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26. I'm asking you what Jesus asked Martha, "Do you believe this?")

After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, some witnesses "went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done" (John 11:46). The chief priests and the Pharisees, who were the _____ of the Lord, convened a council and talked about this event. They said, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many _____. If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him" (John 11:47-48). Even the enemies of Jesus _____ His miracles were real and undeniable.

Our reading today comes from 1 Corinthians, chapter 15.

If Christ is not raised from the dead there will be no general resurrection, our preaching is vain, our _____ is vain, we are false witnesses to preach it, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, the dead in Christ have perished, our _____ in Christ is for this life only, and we are of all men most to be pitied. If the resurrection account of Jesus is not true then Christianity would be founded upon a _____. Christianity is based on the historical evidence concerning the claims and life of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Scripture explicitly stakes its validity and its hope on the historical _____ of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

But God did raise Jesus from the dead! There will be a _____ resurrection. Our preaching and our faith is not in _____. We are not _____ witnesses to preach it. Our faith is precious and priceless. We are saved from _____. The dead in Christ are _____ with the Lord. Our _____ extends beyond this life. We are of all men most to be congratulated and _____ for our blessings and inheritance in Christ. When one considers the evidence, he realizes Jesus is unique when it comes to a resurrection. The resurrection of Christ is essential to our faith and shows credentials, which no other religious leader possesses. While every other religious leader has died, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and _____ as Lord!

The resurrection should make a _____ in our personal lives. For the early disciples, the crucifixion was devastating; they _____ their master and friend. Their hope of Jesus being the Messiah had been crushed. How they _____ from hopeless to hope-filled? How did they have the _____ to preach at Pentecost, fifty days later? It was because the disciples truly came to believe

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that God raised Jesus bodily from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus changed everything. Jesus was now in their hearts and their lives and He was the risen Lord and Christ to them!

Here is why the resurrection matters. First, because Jesus arose He is _____. In the first gospel sermon Peter preached, “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we _____ are witnesses. And being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the _____ of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your _____.’” Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:29-36). To be Lord means that He is _____ of all, that every person is under His authority. To be “Christ” means He is the Messiah and now reigns as the King of His people.

Because He has risen and is Lord He speaks with _____. His words are _____ upon all people everywhere. We must listen to and obey Him. The Lord Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:21-23).

The Lord Jesus explained clearly, “Everyone then who _____ these words of mine and _____ them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it didn’t fall, because it had been founded on the _____. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the _____. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it” (Matthew 7:24-27).

What the Lord Jesus _____ matters. He is the Lord who makes the _____ about what we should believe and how we should live. No one can overcome Him or change His _____. He will have the last say on judgment day. People deceive themselves thinking that they can _____ what He taught about spiritual matters and about morality. The Lord Jesus said, “The one who rejects me and does not receive my _____ has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day” (John 12:48). Don’t imagine the _____ of God will somehow turn what Jesus said was immoral into something that is moral, that won’t happen. Don’t imagine that our worldly and sinful _____ can rewrite what God said to suit themselves. The words of Jesus are settled in heaven and cannot be changed!

Since Jesus is risen we know that His teaching and His promises hold _____. He alone has the _____ to where we came from, why we’re here, what life is about, and what will be facing us after we die. When He teaches that we were _____, we can believe it! When He promises to _____ our sins, we can believe Him! When He says we can have an abundant life and eternal life, we should have no _____. Second Corinthians 1:18-20 says, “As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it was always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. And that is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.” When you believe the words of the New Testament, you are believing the Lord Jesus Himself. His words are trustworthy because they come from Him, and we can trust Him!

Since Jesus arose, He will one day _____ the dead. The Lord Jesus promised, “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which _____ who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come

forth; those who did good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment” (John 5:28-29).

The apostle Paul wrote, “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no _____. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring _____ him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the _____ from the Lord, that we who are alive, and who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from _____ with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of a trumpet, the trumpet of God. And the _____ in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will _____ be with the Lord. Therefore _____ one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

When we face the death of our loved ones, a faithful Christian, we can face it with hope, knowing that this loved one will one day _____ again. For nearly fifty years I’ve conducted funerals, often for people that I love dearly. I know what it is to _____ as Mary and Martha did for Lazarus. The resurrection of Jesus and His promised _____ give me hope of being with loved ones in heaven. This promise also reminds me to remain _____ to the Lord. Are you living a faithful and godly Christian life? Are you “in Christ”?

Death is the _____ of the body from the spirit (James 2:26). Resurrection is the rejoining of the body and spirit. After we are resurrected from the dead, our fleshly bodies will be _____ so that we can live with God in heaven. Paul explains, “I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the _____ of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be _____, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:50-53).

Our bodies will not be like they are today. They will die, but we will never die because our bodies will be changed like the glorified body of Jesus, and that body will _____ forever. Philippians 3:20-21 says, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will _____ the body of our humble state (the one that we have now) into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the _____ that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” This humble body that gets sick and dies will be transformed to be like the Lord’s immortal, imperishable body.

Because God raised up Jesus and He is Lord, we know that He will _____ us all on the last day. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all _____ before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has _____, whether good or bad.”

Revelation 20:11-12 tells us more about the judgment: “Then I saw a great white _____ and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their _____. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were _____, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Because Jesus lives, faithful Christians have a _____ in heaven. The Lord Jesus promised, "Do not let your _____ be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come _____ and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3). The apostle Peter explained, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living _____ through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3-4). I pray, I hope, I wish, I want for you to be living a faithful and godly life that's devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ. His resurrection ought to make a difference to you, how you live and how you think. It ought to make a difference in how you pray and how you treat other people. The resurrection is not simply a _____ to be believed. It's a way of life, of being like Jesus in everything we do, and everything we say.

Since Jesus rose from the dead, since Jesus is Lord, since Jesus speaks with authority, since Jesus will judge us at the end of time, since heaven and hell are real, since His promises are true, and since He is coming again one day, shouldn't you take the Lord seriously and _____ your heart and soul to Him? Jesus is everything that He claimed to be! Take a long look at what He did on the _____. He loved you enough to bear the brutal penalty of death for your _____ on the cross. No one can _____ you from sin or bring you to God but Jesus Christ (John 14:6). No one can _____ you of eternal life except the Lord Jesus who arose from the dead.

No matter what your past has been, you can come to Christ for _____. Set your heart on the Lord who loved you enough to _____ for you. Take hold of the gospel that you've heard and take your stand on it. Hold fast to God's _____, and don't believe in vain. Believe in the Lord who died for your sins and rose again so you might have eternal life. Repent of your sins, turn your heart and life toward the Lord Jesus.

It's not enough merely to say that you believe or to pray a simple prayer. Saul of Tarsus prayed fervently for three days (Acts 9:11); but he didn't have his sins washed away until he was baptized calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16). First Peter 3:21 says, "Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Won't you have your sins washed away too?