



Unit .20

Easter

Alive With Christ

Scripture



1 Corinthians 15:1-11,20-22

1 Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand **2** and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. **3** For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. **6** Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** Last of

all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me. **9** For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. **11** Whether, then, it is I or they, so we proclaim and so you have believed. . . . **20** But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. **22** For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Why is it important for Christians to consider the past, present, and future aspects of the gospel in their lives?

What are some ways we might try to earn God's approval instead of resting in His grace?



99 Essential Doctrines

Life after Death

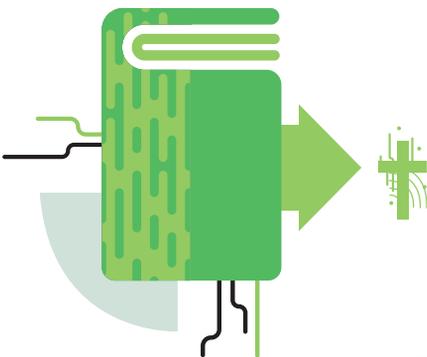
The Bible teaches that when a Christian dies, he or she immediately is with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8; Luke 23:43). This is what some people call an intermediate state, given that the final state for believers takes place at the future resurrection (Rev. 6:10-11). For those who are not in Christ, life after death results in being separated from Christ in a state of suffering, even though future judgment remains (Luke 16:19-31).

Main Point

The historical resurrection of Jesus is the foundation for Christian faith.

How has your life changed since coming to faith in Christ and believing in His death and resurrection?

How would you explain to someone that Christianity is all dependent upon the historical resurrection of Jesus?



Christ Connection

The resurrection of Jesus represents the power of God to change lives and usher in the new world He has promised. Jesus' resurrection is the firstfruits of the future resurrection of His people, the guarantee that God's kingdom will come fully to earth, and the first nail in the coffin of death, which will one day be defeated forever.

Since the future resurrection is central to the Christian life, what are some ways it should influence the way we live today?

In Defense



“Did Jesus rise bodily, or was it just his spirit that arose? According to the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Jesus rose as a spirit creature. However, the evidence recorded during the forty days after Jesus’ resurrection says otherwise. For instance, the disciples initially thought that the risen Lord was a ghost, but Jesus corrected them by pointing out that he couldn’t be a ghost ‘because a ghost does not have flesh and bones’ (Luke 24:39). He even ate some fish to put the matter beyond all doubt (Luke 24:41-43). Thomas touched Jesus’ hands and side to confirm that he had risen bodily (John 20:24-29). Paul even declared that the Christian faith ‘is in vain’ if Christ did not bodily rise from death (1 Cor. 15:14). Why? Because the penalty for sins is death, and Jesus set out to take this penalty upon himself and overturn it forever in his resurrection from death. This could not have been accomplished if his body remained dead in the tomb, suffering the consequences of sin’s penalty.” Sean McDowell, *CSB Apologetics Study Bible for Students*, B&H Publishing (Nashville, 2017), 1442.



Head

What are some ways you could explain to a non-believer concepts like sin, death, salvation, and resurrection? (Feel free to use whatever verses to help explain.)

How would you explain to someone the importance of Jesus' historical resurrection to the Christian faith using 1 Corinthians 15?



Heart

How can Jesus' resurrection be a tremendous source of encouragement when doubting God's love for us?

How can Jesus' resurrection be a tremendous source of encouragement when grieving the loss of a loved one?



Hands

How can we become more mindful of the people around us because of our belief in the resurrection?

How does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope and encouragement when sharing the gospel with others?

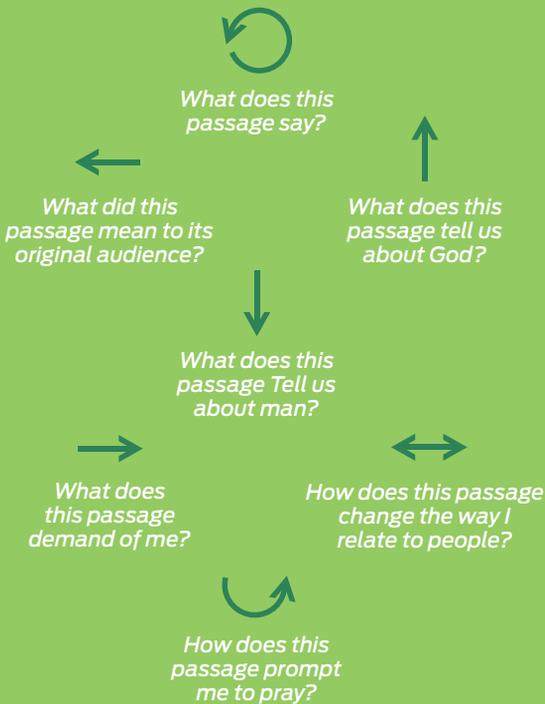
Daily Devotions



Day 1

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



We never move past the gospel. Ever. Paul was so certain of this fact that he took a moment to clarify the gospel for the believers reading his letter: According to the Scriptures, Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. Our salvation rests in that this central event in history really happened. Believers have received this good news by faith, but they also currently stand on it in faith and know by faith that they are being saved and will be saved by it. We can never move past the gospel; we only grow deeper in it.

Paul's concern here should impact the way we interact with and encourage one another in the faith. To this point, he has spent fourteen chapters telling the Corinthian believers how they should live obediently in the church and in their surrounding community, but he returns to the gospel and resurrection because apart from them, all of our "good works" are just window dressing. Likewise, our encouragement to one another to live by faith can address specifics and offer sound, reasonable, biblical counsel, but we must always build one another up in the truth of the gospel. Jesus is our Savior; we cannot leave Him behind.

How can you encourage a believer with the truth of the gospel today?

1 Corinthians

15:9-11

The appearance of the risen Christ to Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9) was the turning point in Saul's life. Put yourself in Saul's shoes: Imagine the object of your frustration and hatred showing Himself to be real and divine before your freshly blinded eyes. Immediately, you would cower. Immediately, you would want to beg for your life. After all, you have been about the business of trying to stamp out what you now know is the work of God. But then you hear Jesus' words of grace: Get up and go, and you will be told what to do (Acts 9:6).

Paul never got over the grace that was shown to him, and Paul never forgot that God's grace was constantly with him to show him what to do and to empower him for the task. Grace is not merely for our forgiveness from sin; grace is our drive and strength for the gospel work. Now it is time to get up and go and do what God tells you to do in His grace.

How is God calling you to act in faith, in grace, and in obedience?

1 Corinthians

15:12-19

The resurrection of Jesus is one of those things about what the Christian faith rises or falls. We can debate ministry method, song selection, end-times schemes, and a host of other practical and theological ideas, but if we don't get this one right—Jesus died and rose again—then this is all for nothing. Even the Bible and the Daily Discipleship Guide in front of you are pointless if Jesus has not been raised from the dead.

If there were no resurrection for Jesus, then there would be no resurrection for us. Furthermore, there would be no salvation from sin and no hope for any future. Jesus' disciples would all be liars, as would Jesus Himself be, since He proclaimed that He would rise again on the third day (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34). And no liar can die for the sins of sinners.

The real, physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus must be true or we should all just walk away now. But it is true! Jesus lives, people saw Him alive, and people still come to Him with the eyes of faith.

How is your belief in Jesus' resurrection challenged and/or affirmed by Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15?

1 Corinthians

15:20-28

Jesus, the obedient, righteous, perfect Son of God, currently rules over this world and all of creation. Having been raised from the dead by God the Father, He has been vindicated. Jesus is not a liar, a blasphemer, or a criminal—Jesus is who He says He is and accomplished what He said He would accomplish, namely, our salvation. He was raised from the dead and raised to His throne in heaven at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:32-36). Everything has been put under His feet!

We don't feel that now, at least not all of it. Death still holds sway over humanity. But Jesus dealt death its final blow in His crucifixion and resurrection, and the end of the reign of sin and death will come at Jesus' second coming. So for now, we believe what God has revealed about Jesus—He is King, He is kind, and He is coming—and we proclaim this good news to the world.

What are some ways your future resurrection in Christ needs to change your priorities and concerns now?

1 Corinthians

15:29-58

Scripture teaches that we are inheritors of an “Adam,” either the first Adam or the last Adam. We take on a lot from our parents: facial expressions, sayings and phrases, mannerisms, an outlook on life, a perspective of the world, and more. We may even share in the blessings or consequences of their life choices. But when it comes to the first Adam and the last Adam, we take on something much deeper. From the first Adam we receive a sinful nature, the guilt of being sinners, and the consequence of death for sin. Along with Adam, we have been cursed to return to the dust in death. But from the last Adam—Jesus Christ—we receive a new spiritual nature, complete forgiveness from sin, and the blessing of eternal life with Him.

We are all born into the family of the first Adam. We all stand condemned in sin before the holy God and Creator of all. But that same God sent the last Adam to die in our place so we could be adopted into His family, where every believer stands free from sin and in loving relationship with our heavenly Father.

What differences would you expect from those born into the first Adam and those born again into the last Adam by faith?