

By This We Know

Text : **Matt. 28: 1-10 ; I Cor. 15: 1-8**

A. Christianity is the only major religion that serves a living God / or prophet. S#1. S#2.

1. The Buddha died and was cremated.
 - a. His ashes are divided among many stupas. S#3.
 - 1) Stupa : A mound-like or hemispherical structure containing Buddhist relics
 - 2) Used as place of meditation
 - b. For example, His right tooth relic is venerated at *Dalada Maligawa* in Sri Lanka
2. The Muslim prophet, Muhammad is buried in the "Mosque of the Prophet" in the city of Medina in Saudi Arabia. S#4.
 - a. Muhammad's grave lies within the confines of what used to be his wife Aisha's and his house. (Married her when she was 6 began molesting at 9.)
 - b. Every year millions make religious pilgrimage there.
3. Abraham, Judaism's founder is buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron. Gen. 25: 7-10 S#5.

B. The body of Jesus the Christ is not in a tomb. S#6.

1. There are at least four tourist locations advertised as the location of Jesus' tomb.
2. The Jews are still searching and excavating looking for a tomb with Jesus in it.
3. Jesus was only in a tomb for parts of three days, perhaps as little as 36 hours.
 - a. To the ancient Jew any part of a day was a day.
 - b. The scriptures tell us He was not in the tomb long enough to decay.
Acts 13: 37 – but He whom God raised did not undergo decay.
 - c. When the women came to anoint the body of Jesus, he had already risen.
Luke 24: 4-7 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; 5 and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? 6 He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, 7 saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." S#7.

C. Death has no power over our Lord and Savior Jesus because He is Christ.

1. **John 10: 17-18** For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. **18** "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. ... S#8.

2. Jesus repeatedly prophesied of His own death and resurrection on the third day.

- a. **John 2: 19-21** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"
²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body.
- b. **Matt. 12: 39-40** But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous **S#10.** generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; ⁴⁰ for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

S#11.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead gives the Christian great confidence.

I. By the resurrection of Jesus we are assured of the power of God.

S#12.

A. By His own power God spoke the worlds into existence.

S#13.

1. **Genesis 1-2** ... God did not make the worlds from something ... He created them.
2. **Genesis 2: 7** ... God formed man from lifeless clay and breathed life into him.

B. God gave life to the dead womb of Sarah.

1. **Rom. 4: 19** – Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; **S#14.**
2. **Gen. 18: 14** – Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.

S#15.

C. That same power of God restored life to the corps of Jesus after His crucifixion.

Eph. 1: 18-20 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, **S#16.**

D. This is the power of God which gives us eternal life in Jesus the Christ.

S#17.

1. **II Cor. 13: 4** – For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.
2. In this body we are limited by our flesh, but God's power overcomes our weakness.

II. The resurrection of Jesus assures us that our faith is not in vain.

S#18.

S#19.

A. The entirety of the Christian's faith and religion rests upon the resurrection.

S#20.

B. The function of the Apostles was to be witnesses of the resurrection of Christ.

1. **Acts 1: 22** – beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.

2. Peter's first gospel sermon proclaimed the resurrection.

Acts 2: 22-24 Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man **S#21.** attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— **23** this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. **24** "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

3. Peter's second gospel sermon also proclaimed the resurrection.

Acts 3: 14-15 But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a **S#22.** murderer to be granted to you, **15** but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.

4. The Apostles first defense of the gospel proclaimed the resurrection.

a. **Acts 4: 1-2** As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain **S#23.** of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, **2** being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

b. **Acts 4: 9-10** if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to **S#24.** how this man has been made well, **10** let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.

5. The Apostle Paul emphasized the resurrection in his preaching.

Acts 17: 18 – And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were **S#25.** conversing with him. Some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

C. Without the resurrection we have no religion.

I Cor. 15: 16-19 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; **S#26.** **17** and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

III. The resurrection of Jesus assures Christians that we are redeemed.**S#27.****A. The gospel that saves proclaims the resurrection.**

I Cor. 15: 1-8 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached **S#28.** 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. **3** For I delivered to you as of first **S#29.** importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that **He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**, **5** and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** After that He appeared **S#30.** to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; **7** then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; **8** and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

B. The resurrection was essential to our justification.

Rom. 4: 23-25 But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his **S#31.** (Abraham’s) sake alone, **24** but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, **25** who was delivered up for our transgressions, and was raised for our justification. (ESV) (Cf – **Eph. 2: 8-9**)

C. One is able to receive the new birth only because of the resurrection.

I Pet. 1: 3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **S#32.** according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

D. Baptism is a physical expression of faith in the resurrection of Christ.

Rom. 6: 3-5 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into **S#33.** Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that **as Christ was raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, so **we too might walk in newness of life.** **5** For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

IV. The resurrection of Jesus gives us assurance of life beyond the grave.**S#34.****A. Christians are promised life beyond the grave. You and I will live again.****S#35.**

- 1. I Cor. 6: 14** – Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power

2. **II Cor. 4: 13-14** But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. **S#36.**
3. **Rom. 8: 11** – But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. **S#37.**

B. Our new life will be eternal ... unending.

1. **John 11: 23-27** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies. ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world." **S#38.**
2. **II Cor. 5: 1** – For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **S#39.**

V. The resurrection of Jesus assures us that we will face Him in judgment. S#40.

A. The resurrection proves that there will be a judgment day.

- 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. **S#41.**

B. Everyone will be raised on that day of Judgment.

- John 5: 25-29** Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; ²⁷ and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. **S#42.**
S#43.

C. The day of judgment will be a time of separating the saved from the lost. S#44.

1. **Matt. 25: 31-33** But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. **32** All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; **33** and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.
2. **II Thes. 1: 6-12** For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those **S#45.** who afflict you, **7** and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the **S#46.** gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed. **11** To this end also we pray for **#47.** you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, **12** so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION :**A. When that day comes, in which group will you be found. S#48.**

1. Will you be a goat or a sheep ?
2. Will you be separated from God eternally or dwell with Him in Heaven ?

B. Your attitude toward the resurrection may well determine your eternity. S#49.

1. No one who does not believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus will be saved.
2. No one who does not express his faith in that resurrection will be saved.

C. Jesus wants you to be with Him in eternity. S#50.

1. He came, died, was resurrected, ascended and now intercedes in Heaven to make your salvation possible.
2. Have you received the gift He purchased for you ?

INVITATION :**Why not accept His offer ?****Do it now !****S#51.**

Lesson Text :**Matthew 28: 1-10**

1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. **2** And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. **3** And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. **4** The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. **5** The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. **6** He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. **7** Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

8 And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. **9** And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

I Corinthians 15: 1-8

1 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. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; **7** then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; **8** and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.