

The Resurrection Of Jesus

Text : **1 Cor 15:1-8**

Introduction :

- A. I love this season of the year because at least for this one day millions of people across America think about our Lord Jesus the Christ.
- B. Whether Christian or not, Americans are reminded that Jesus Christ the Son of God died on the cross :
 - 1. They hear that the death of Jesus was to pay the debt for the sins of all mankind.
 - 2. Even greater, this day tells them He was raised from the dead.
- C. The resurrection of Jesus was the single most significant event in the entire history of mankind.
 - 1. From Adam until this day, all men have died, except two prophets who God took.
 - 2. Though all men die, none have raised themselves back up from the grave.
 - 3. The dead being raised was pointed to as the ultimate, and irrefutable miracle.
Luke 16: 30– “But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ 31– “But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”
 - 4. It’s such an important date; the western world sets its calendar by it. (AD / BC)

Therefore, it behooves us to spend a few minutes this morning considering the resurrection of Jesus the Christ from the dead.

I. The Entire Christian Faith Rests Upon The Foundation Of Christ’s Resurrection.

- A. When asked for a sign to prove His authority, Jesus sited His resurrection.
 - 1. **Matt. 12: 38–** Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” **39** But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous 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.
 - 2. If Jesus was unable to perform the sign He promised to do, He surely couldn’t be the promised Messiah, but if He did perform it, thus proving His power, & **diety**.

B. Jesus repeatedly pointed to His resurrection from the dead as the ultimate proof of His authority.

1. **John 2: 18**– The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?” **19** 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. **22** So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

2. Jesus repeatedly staked His credibility on this amazing demonstration of power.

C. Jesus prophesied His resurrection to His disciples. (Staked His credibility on it.)

1. **Luke 9: 20**– And He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered and said, “The Christ of God.” **21** But He warned them and instructed *them* not to tell this to anyone, **22** saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.”

2. If the prophesy of a prophet does not come to pass, that prophet is a false prophet.

D. The Apostles pointed to the resurrection to prove the deity of Jesus :

1. **Acts 2: 22-36** ... Peter’s first sermon was the resurrection of Jesus & application.
2. **Rom 1:4**– who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

E. The New Testament writers taught belief in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead as being essential to one’s salvation.

1. **Rom 10:8**– ... that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, **9** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.
2. **I Cor. 15: 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,
3. **Heb. 6: 1-2** ... The resurrection is included as one of the “elementary teachings.”

4. **Why ?** Because if Jesus did NOT rise from the dead :
 - a. Our faith is empty, futile. – **1 Cor. 15: 14, 17**
 - b. None are saved – nor can be. – Thus, we are still in our sins. – **1 Cor. 15: 17**
 - c. Those who died in Christ have perished. – **1 Cor. 15: 18**
 - d. We are of all men the most pitiable. – **1 Cor. 15: 19**

II. Those Who Do Not Accept Jesus As The Christ, Have Always Tried To Disprove The Resurrection.

A. **WHY ?** Because the validity of His claims is contingent upon His resurrection.

1. Any prophet whose prophecies does not come true is a charlatan, a fake.
2. It was the resurrection that proves Jesus to be the “**Son of God with power.**”
Rom 1:4– who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

B. The Jews knew how significant the resurrection would be, so they tried to prevent it from happening. (*or a fake resurrection from being staged*)

1. **Matt. 27: 62–** Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I *am* to rise again.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.”
⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶ And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

2. The actions of the Jews provided irrefutable proof that Jesus was raised, because :
 - a. The Romans soldiers would have certified that the body was in the grave.
 - b. The Romans sealed the tomb to insure that it was not tampered with.
 - c. No one could have rolled the rock away and taken the body with 16 soldiers there.

C. Through the centuries attempts to disprove the resurrection have been ineffective.

1. The foolish lies of the Jews did not deceive many people.
2. The books written against the resurrection offer no convincing proof.
 - a. Schofield’s book, “*The Passover Plot*” is largely forgotten.
 - b. The current movie was discredited by archeologists before it was shown.

III. If Tried Today, The Case For The Resurrection Of Christ Would Stand Up In Any Court Of Law.

A. Christians accept it because it is clearly stated as a fact in the scripture.

1. We Christians accept the bible as being the inspired word of God.
2. Those who do not yet have faith that Jesus is the Christ require proof.

B. The second proof of the resurrection is that the tomb was empty.

1. Even those who deny the resurrection admit that the tomb was empty.
2. The Jews knew there was a prophecy that the body would be resurrected. (**MT**)
3. There was no other plausible explanation for how the tomb became empty.
4. The story told by the Jews could not have been true.
 - a. There were 16 guards present. No one could have stolen it away from them.
 - b. The sealed stone was very heavy so not easily moved. (**Mt 27:60, 66 , Mk 16:3**)
 - c. Roman soldiers were killed if they fell asleep on duty. (**cf- Ax 16: 27-28**)

C. The third proof is that many witnesses saw Jesus after His resurrection.

1. **I Cor. 15: 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.
2. In addition to those appearances listed in our text above, Jesus appeared to :
 - a. **Mk 16: 9 ; Jn 20: 14** ... To Mary Magdalene.
 - b. **Mt 28: 8-10** ... To other women returning from the tomb.
 - c. **Lk 24: 13-33** ... to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
3. **515** eyewitnesses would establish a fact in any court in the world.
 - a. **Deut 17:6** ... Law of Moses required at least, but only two or three witnesses.
 - b. Even today in America, the number of witnesses effects validity of testimony.

D. The quality of the witnesses is irrefutable. (**They knew Him intimately.**)

1. The witnesses included close family members. (Mother, brothers)
2. Close friends of Jesus saw Him after his resurrection. (The two Marys)
3. The disciples with whom He had lived for three years saw Him.

E. The quality of the observations. (*Not distant glimpses in the misty darkness.*)

1. Jesus was seen in a variety of places and times of day over a 40 day period.
2. Jesus spent lengthy periods of time with people. (**Not a passing glance.**)
 - a. Walked along the Emmaus road.
 - b. While they took breakfast together.
 - c. They were together in an upper room.

F. Those who knew Him intimately, had repeated physical contact with Him.

1. The two Marys were clinging to His feet. (**Matt. 28: 9-10**)
2. He gave His disciples fish from His hand to theirs. (**John 21: 4-14**)
3. The disciples handled Jesus, including His wounds. (**John 20:20-29 ; I Jn. 1:1**)

G. The effect the resurrection had on those who witnessed it confirms testimony.

1. The Apostles who had been hiding became bold and would not be silenced.
 - a. When Jesus was arrested, the disciples fled. (**Matt. 26:56**)
 - b. They were hiding together in an upper room with the door locked. (**John 20:26**)
2. Before the resurrection, Peter denied Jesus three times. ... (**Luke 22:54-61**)
 - a. After the resurrection, Peter boldly proclaimed the gospel. ... (**Acts 2: 14-40**)
 - b. The difference was clearly observable to Jewish leaders. ... (**Acts 4: 13**)
3. The Apostles were all willing to die rather than deny the resurrection of Christ.
4. The earthly brothers of Jesus became believers and church leaders.
 - a. Before His resurrection, they thought He was crazy. (**Mark 3:21 , John 7:5**)
 - b. After the resurrection His family believed. (**Acts 1:14**)
 - c. James became a leader in the church at Jerusalem. (**Acts 15**)
 - c. James and Jude wrote books of the new testament. (**James was martyred**)

IV. There Is No Compelling Evidence Against The Resurrection.**A. The Jews were obviously prejudiced against Jesus ; they had Him crucified.**

1. They stooped so low as to hire false witnesses to crucify and to deny resurrection.
2. In 2000 years they've been unable to produce the body of Jesus or to find any credible proof that the resurrection account is false.

B. The Jews in power were doctrinally opposed to the resurrection. (blind, deaf)

1. Sadducees don't believe in angels or the resurrection from the dead. (**Ax 23:8**)

2. The Sadducees were the ruling party at the time.
3. They tried to prevent the Apostles from preaching the resurrection.

Ax 4: 1– As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain 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. **3–** And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening.

C. The testimony of the Roman soldiers would not hold up.

1. Their testimony was that the body was stolen by the disciples while they slept.
2. Guards would never sleep on watch and never admit to it if they did.
3. NO ONE can testify to anything that happened while they were asleep. (**illustrate**)

Conclusion :

A. The case for the resurrection of Jesus is clear and conclusive.

1. The crucifixion is a historically proven fact.
2. The resurrection is also a historically proven fact.
3. It is not something that must just be accepted by faith. **There is empirical proof.**

B. The entire Christian Religion rests upon the validity of the resurrection.

1. The empty tomb is the single most powerful proof of the deity of Jesus the Christ.
2. If the resurrection were not true, no one could be saved from sin.

I Cor. 15: 13– But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; **14** and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. **15** Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; **17** and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

C. Just as the resurrection was at the heart of the Apostles message, so it should also be at the heart of ours as well.

1. To accept the resurrection is to accept the deity of Christ.
2. To accept the deity of Christ, is to accept His authority to rule our lives.

D. To deny the resurrection is to reject the only source of eternal salvation, Jesus.

Invitation :