

# 1Corinthians 15:12-19 – The Necessity of the Resurrection 复活

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: It was necessary that Jesus died on the cross for you, but it was equally necessary that Jesus was raised from the dead for you. Now we can't look at all the reasons Jesus had to be raised from the dead for you in one sermon, but we can focus on 3 of the main reasons he was raised from the dead.

Our headings are:

**Christ was raised, so you will be raised in the future**

**Christ was raised, so you have good news to preach now**

**Christ was raised, so your sins are forgiven**

Our goals are: **That you will understand and cherish the doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for sinners such as you, so you can love him better.**

## **Christ was raised – So you will be raised in the future**

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.**

**1. Jesus was gloriously raised from the dead the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week.** Indeed, God did not leave his Holy One to decay.

Psalm 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, **Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.** 11 You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy...**

His disciples saw him, talked to him, touched him, ate with him, and worshipped him after his resurrection.

The resurrection was so glorious that the Sabbath 安息日 – the day of rest and worship, was changed to Sunday. That 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, Sunday was called the Lord's Day. This Lord's Day was called "sabbaton" or the Sabbath Day in the Greek New Testament. But Christ's resurrection was not just a glorious fact to bring bragging 吹牛 rights. ("My God is greater than your god.") This fact of his resurrection has important implications. The first one:

**2. Because Christ was gloriously raised** from the dead and is alive and well, when he returns **he will** raise those who have died and **give them new bodies. And those who are alive will also be given new bodies and be raised up to heaven.**

Rotten (corruptible) bodies will be restored to incorruptible bodies. Jesus has a new body and so will you! 1Thessalonians 4:15-17 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede... those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel 天使长, and with the trumpet of God. And the **dead in Christ will rise first.** 17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And **thus we shall always be with the Lord.**

1 Corinthians 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

After you are raised you will never die again because Jesus is that Tree of Life. Because you eat of him (believe), you will live forever. That Tree of Life was taken away after the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam sinned, but it is restored in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam.

**3. This change in the bodies of the dead in Christ and the living in Christ will confirm the destruction of death.**

Isaiah prophesied 2750 years ago that this would happen, so this will not be a surprise.

Isaiah 25:8 **He will swallow up death forever,** And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth;

Apostle Paul even mocked death. Paul was so confident of this victory over death that **he wrote about this future victory in the present tense...** as if it had happened already.

1Corinthians 15:55 **"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"**

Apostle John spoke of death's final destruction.

When a bee or wasp loses its sting...or a poisonous snake loses its fangs...or a scorpion loses its sting...it is not a threat to anyone anymore. Death's teeth have been pulled. It might gnaw 咬 on you but it is no longer dangerous. Death may rattle like a rattlesnake 响尾蛇 or hiss like a cobra (**you might get a little scared**) – but it can't bite. You will receive a new and glorious body. Death is "put to death" forever.

Revelations 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

"Hades" the grave, **cannot control the power of God's resurrection.**

Consider Job's take on the new body.

Job 19:26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, **That in my flesh** I shall see God,

He knew that his body would be eaten by worms or become dust again, but he knew that **from his body** he would see

God. His soul would rejoin his body on resurrection day. Look at one more passage.

Philippians 3: 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who **will transform our lowly body** that it may be **conformed to His** glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Your body will be glorious, free from all sickness and woe, and beyond the ability to sin.

**4. To put it like the Catechism 要理问答, because of Christ's resurrection, you are justified, sanctified, and glorified.** Jesus could not simply have come to be a good moral example. Jesus could not simply have died and his body rot in the ground. If that were the case, then your sins would have been paid for, but you would not have received new life. All Christ's victories are yours...he gives them to you without charge. Even the best plastic surgeon's work on your body will fall apart after a while...but not the new body Christ will give you!

### **5. Lessons:**

**a. Laugh at death!**

**b. Be evangelistic 福音布道** Know the worthlessness of the views of the Jehovah's Witnesses who deny life after death! And know how hopeless the Hindus are...teaching of the ever-recycling soul, hopelessly search for rest!

### **Christ was raised – So you have good news to preach now**

14 And if Christ is not risen, **then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.** 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

**1. Christ's resurrection from the dead confirmed everything he said about his life to his disciples.** It proved that he was the Son of God who came to save the world. In other words, the Christ's resurrection gave life to everything he said. Romans 1:3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and **declared to be the Son of God** with power according to the Spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead.** And the Jews in Rome well understood that the purpose of the Son of God coming was to redeem the world.

### **2. With the fact of Christ's resurrection established, it then had to be proclaimed to the world so others could benefit.**

Acts 1: 21 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 "beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, **one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.**"

If Christ were not raised from the dead, there would be no preaching. **The dead cannot save the living.** Any Christianity without the resurrection is not true. To not believe in the resurrection will lead men to hell.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**Or if Christ were not raised from the dead, it would make no sense to preach.** There would be no salvation.

### **3. Lessons:**

**a. If Jesus were not raised from the dead, Christianity would be like any other religion, religions grounded in human work.** You could only then place your faith in yourself. **But now you can preach about faith in Christ.**

**b. Don't concede 让步 that Muslims and Jews believe like you.** They reject Christ's resurrection. And the Jews tried to hide the fact of Christ's resurrection. The foundation of these religions rests in the denial of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They will go to hell, unless they get the message of Christ's resurrection. **So evangelize our Muslims** friends. Every Christian has been commissioned to announce the resurrection.

### **Christ was raised – so your sins are forgiven in the past**

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who

have fallen asleep in Christ **have perished**. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all **men the most pitiable**.

**1. At the resurrection of Jesus, all sin (the mother of death) was paid for in full** so there can be no punishment for you. Christ kept the law and answered all the demands of the law – a law which brought wrath and judgment on you. Romans 4:15. Sin and death cannot therefore hold you accountable. Death (the child) has been abolished 废除 by Christ dying and resurrection, so sin (the mother) is deprived of it of its strength. Christ's death has no atoning value without his resurrection. Look at the spiritual benefits of Christ's death and resurrection!

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And look at how this new life came.

Romans 4: 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and **was raised because of our justification**.

This means you never have to die, you never can die spiritually, and you can never be separated from God. You see, whatever you Covenant Keeper acquired, he put to your account. If Adam had passed his test, you would have been confirmed in righteousness forever. Your second Adam, Jesus, passed the test, and so you are secured forever.

**2. If Christ were not raised from the dead, then you are still in your sins today, and therefore, most pitiable.** You are most pitiable because you are attempting to serve God while still in sin. But now you have joy inexpressible – as you no longer carry the debt of your sins.

**3. What are the implications for you now that your sins are forgiven?**

Colossians 3: 1 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth. 3 **For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God**. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then **you also will appear with Him in glory**.

a. **You have the hope of heaven with a down payment of sitting in heavenly places now.** You don't have to live like a refugee begging for a place to live and for the means of living.

b. **You live in freedom and peace.** Live like a prince. Claim God's promises.

c. **You can worship God...as you have access to him now.** The unsaved can't do this.

d. **You can help others to get their sins forgiven by bringing them to hear the Gospel.**

### **Conclusion:**

Because Jesus Christ was raised, you too will be raised. You were in him when he died and you were in him when he was raised. In heaven, he is a guarantee that you too will be there. Christ's resurrection completes the Gospel. Christ's resurrection confirms that the effects of sin have been removed. Those who promote a moralistic Christ usually ignore the resurrection.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Let the knowledge of Christ's resurrection give you confidence in how you live now and let the knowledge of Christ's resurrection give you confidence while waiting for heaven. Live in obedience now. Store up treasures heaven later.

2. Let the knowledge of Christ's resurrection be fundamental to your evangelism. Salvation did not end on the cross.

3. To do these 2 things, you need to constantly be reminded of Christ's resurrection. Ignore any preacher who ignores the resurrection!

Finally, if you don't believe that Christ died for your sins and rose again to give that credit to you, then you will die in your sins and spend eternity in hell. If you don't want to die for your sins and spend eternity in hell, ask God to give to you what Christ earned for sinners.