

Introduction:

Did the resurrection of Christ actually happen? Would it matter if it didn't? What is the importance of the resurrection? You can find the sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²

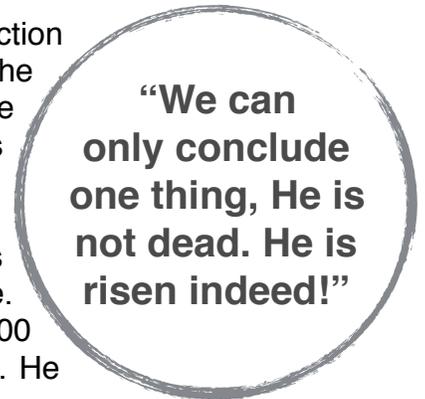


Scripture:

Please see 1 Corinthians 15:1-19 in your Bible [or click here](#).

So What?

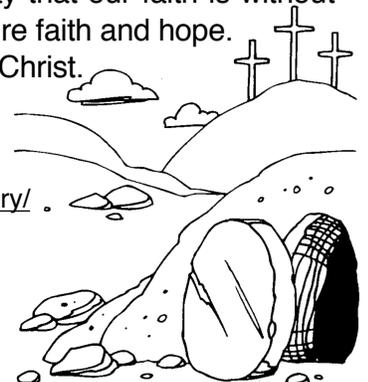
Would it matter if the resurrection was disproved? Is the resurrection really that important? In 1 Corinthians 15:1-19, the apostle Paul asks the question, "What if the resurrection isn't true? What have we lost?" The first part of verse 3 tells us this is a matter of "first importance." Just as the heart pumps life-giving blood to every part of the body, so the truth of the resurrection gives life to every other area of the good news about salvation. The first fact is that Christ died (3). The proof of his death is that he was buried (4). The second fact is that Christ came back to life. He rose (4). The proof of his resurrection is that he appeared to over 500 people (5-8). Notice the connection: "Christ died (how do I know?) . . . He was buried." "He was raised (how do I know?) . . . He appeared."



But suppose for a moment, as the apostle Paul does, that the critics of the resurrection are right. According to verse 12, some false teachers in Corinth taught that Jesus did not really rise from the dead. If the resurrection is false, what have we really lost? Our faith is lost (14, 17). Our forgiveness is lost (17). Our future is lost (19). Our family & friends who embraced the Gospel and then died are lost (18). Our Integrity is lost (15). Fortunately, Paul concludes that "in fact Christ has been raised from the dead." (20) If you honestly consider the evidence, you must conclude that Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures, he was buried, that he was raised the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared. Therefore, our faith isn't futile, but well-placed.³

What Now?

1. In verse 6, Paul testifies that Christ appeared to over 500 believers. Why is it significant that (at the time he wrote this) most of them were still alive?
2. For those of us who trust in Christ, our hope is in him. Unlike those who deny Christ, who see hope as little more than a wishful desire, our hope is a sure thing. Our hope is linked to the resurrection of Christ, and it is for an eternal resurrection ([1 Cor 15: 17, 20-23](#)). Our hope is for the forgiveness of sins and our salvation ([1 Thessalonians 5:8](#)). Our hope is for a righteousness that comes from Christ ([Galatians 5:5](#)). Our hope is for an eternal life with God ([Titus 1:2; 3:7](#)).
3. Remember that the world does not get to define what "faith" means. Some say that our faith is without proof or reason. As we can see in the passage, that's not the case. Ours is a sure faith and hope.
4. He is risen! So don't be ashamed to talk about it to others. Spread the hope of Christ.



¹ wheelsms.wordpress.com/2016/03/27/the-resurrection-urban-legend-or-center-point-of-history/

² firstcentralbaptist.com/images/03-27-16.mp3

³ This section has been adapted from Pastor Mark's sermon notes.