



Empowering People to Change the World

**The Resurrection of Jesus Christ:
The Best News in the World**

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Introduction:

A story is told of a man who was wanting to get across town in a hurry and found a shortcut through a cemetery. While running through the cemetery he fell into a freshly dug grave and tried and tried to get out but couldn't. He decided to take a rest in the shadows of the grave until help might come in the morning. Soon, another person is walking through the cemetery, and they fall into the same grave. Same thing, this person tries and tries to get out but can't., And the man in the shadows says, "You can't get out."

Two thousand years ago, Jesus died on a cross and was buried in a grave and the Devil said, "You can't get out." and Jesus said, "I'll show you!"

"The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Best News in the World." Say that to your neighbor!

- Our entire dating system is based on the resurrection of Jesus. BC-Before Christ...AD-Anno Domini, year of our Lord. Our date today is 2024, based on the birth of Jesus Christ, because Jesus rose from the grave!
- Because of the Resurrection of Jesus, we have the New Testament, the Bible, which is the expression of the fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament. The Entire Bible is in our hands because of the Resurrection of Jesus!
- Because of the Resurrection of Jesus, we were given a basis for law, art, and science that formed the foundation for Western Civilization.
- Because of the resurrection of Jesus, the Pilgrims came to America, and founded our nation.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the BEST NEWS in the World!

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 15. If you don't have a Bible, you can use the one in the seat in front of you or view the passage on the screen.

- Paul explains better than any other set of verses, anywhere in the Bible, the purpose and power for living that we have as Christ disciples through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Verses 1-2

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved...” (1 Corinthians 15:1-2).

- Paul is giving us an introduction into the Gospel—meaning the Good News, the best news in the world.
- In other words, in a world of fake news, conspiracy theories, and just flat bad news...
 - there is great news, true news, the best news in the world. And hear it is...

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.” (Verses 3-4)

- First of all. The very first thing above all other things! There is nothing better than this. Here it is: THE BEST NEWS.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus Died for our Sins.

- Because of our sin—our selfishness and our ego to live a life independent from God, Jesus died on the cross! Past, present, and future sins He died for ALL our sins.
- It was according to the Scriptures. Twice he says that. Meaning the Bible. The Bible has told us that the Messiah Jesus would come and die on the cross and be the perfect sacrifice for our sins.
- The Old Testament prophesied it, and the New Testament recorded it.

2. Jesus was Buried.

- He died on the cross and was buried in a Jewish tomb. He did not swoon, faint, or pass out. He died and was buried. The Romans were the best at killing people. They pronounced him dead. HE WAS BURIED IN A JEWISH TOMB.

3. Jesus was Resurrected.

- And the crowning point, that which is the key to The Good News, the key to new life, the key to forgiveness; **Jesus “rose again on the third day.”** Jesus conquered sin and death by rising from the grave.
- **HE came out of the grave and He said, “I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me shall never die”**

“And that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present...” (Verses 5-6)

- Paul now gives the historical evidence for the Resurrection. He says that there is Eye-Witness Evidence, people even still alive, who literally saw Jesus risen from the grave!
- Over five hundred people were eyewitnesses of the resurrection. Most of the people are still alive as he writes this account. Even by modern courtroom standards that's impressive.

Great intellects and scholars, have studied the resurrection:

Dr. Thomas Arnold, Professor of Modern History at Oxford, “I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead.”

Dr. Simon Greenleaf, while professor of law at Harvard, wrote a volume in which he examined the legal value of the apostles' testimony to the resurrection of Christ.

Greenleaf concluded,

“The resurrection of Jesus is one of the best-supported events in history, according to the laws of legal evidence administered in courts of justice.” (Dr. Simon Greenleaf, Professor of Law, Harvard University)

But...Why is the Resurrection of Jesus, the Greatest News in the World?

Look at our passage,

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” (Verses 20-22)

1. Jesus’s Resurrection is the First Fruits of Our Resurrection.

- The first fruits of the harvest were the first ripened part just as the harvest is about to come. It is the actual evidence that a harvest is coming. According to Leviticus 23, the first fruits in connection with the Passover were used to consecrate the coming harvest.
- Even now in Colorado Springs, you can see the buds coming out on the trees, slowly, really slowly, but they are trying. Little oak leaves, aspen leaves trying to break out.
- If you’ve ever had a garden or greenhouse, those first beans, peppers, or tomatoes indicate more to come.
- It’s that aroma of the meal to come. Sometimes I come home, and Liz is making a meal that has this aroma to it. I love the smell of a steak or burgers on the grill.
 - Jesus is that first aroma, the first leaf, that first fruit of a coming harvest in your soul.
 - Because Jesus rose again, this is a foretaste of our own resurrection.
 - Because Jesus rose from the grave, you can be assured you will rise from the grave—with a new body, a glorified body, and disease-less body; Cancer-free, virus-free, heart disease-free body! A perfect body because Jesus rose from the dead.

Say to your neighbor: I want a Perfect Body!

“Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.” (Verses 24-25)

2. Jesus’s Resurrection is just the Start of His Reign over all Authorities, Powers, and Enemies.

- Jesus's resurrection took Him first into Hell, where He announced His power over all spiritual powers, demonic forces, and Satan himself.
- Jesus preached to the demons in hell. Jesus announced His coming resurrection from the dead and His power over all the earth!

BECAUSE JESUS DEFEATED SATAN AND DEATH, HE HAS POWER OVER ANY SITUATION IN YOUR LIFE!

- Whenever I speak to a demon, it obeys me because I've been given power and authority from Christ, because Christ died on the cross and rose again. I use the name of Jesus when I speak and they tremble and leave! Every demon remembers what happened two thousand years ago.

Abraham Kuyper, former Prime Minister of Netherlands:

“In the total expanse of human life there is not a single square inch of which the Christ, who alone is sovereign, does not declare, ‘That is mine!’” (Abraham Kuyper).

For Joel, when he gave his life to Christ, when Christ came over him out in front of the Salvation Army in Colorado Springs, the Resurrected Jesus came into his heart and began the process of setting him free from:

- heroin,
- cocaine,
- and Alcohol.

Jesus can Conquer Any Obstacle in your Life too!

- The name of Jesus can set anyone free from any addiction, any power, any demonic presence, because Jesus resurrected from the dead.
- You can walk in freedom over your sin, over your past, over your pain.
- Because Jesus is ALIVE!
- Jesus is reigning and continuing to reign up the heavens and the earth because He is not dead. He is alive. He is at work across this fruited plain. He is at work in Colorado Springs, in El Paso County, and in the state of Colorado.

- Listen folks. This is only the beginning! The Kingdom of God Revolution is coming!!
 - He will take over the globe! Jesus will rule until He has put every enemy under His feet. Psalm 110
- Even the Great Kings of the earth have recognized the Kingdom of God.

Nebuchnezzar, the King of Babylon said about God,

**“His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom is from generation to generation...
He does according to His will in the army of heaven
And among the inhabitants of the earth.
No one can restrain His hand” (Daniel 4:34-35).**

Darius, the Emperor of Persia said,

**“For He is the living God,
And steadfast forever;
His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed,
And His dominion shall endure to the end.
He delivers and rescues” (Daniel 6:26-27).**

Look at Verse 42

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.” (Verses 42-43)

3. Jesus’s Resurrection Enables Us to Experience God’s Power.

- We were born into corruption, but we can be resurrected into incorruption.
- We were born into dishonor, but we can be raised up to honor.
- We were born into weakness, but we can be resurrected into power.
- ALL of us have lived our lives in corruption, dishonor, and weakness. We have known death in our lives—death in relationships, death in marriage, death in body, soul, and spirit—but we have come to the resurrection of Christ! Jesus has transformed us. We are Kingdom People!

- If you put your faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you can be transformed from an earthly man, an earthly woman, into a heavenly man, a heavenly woman.

What does that mean? It means that the Kingdom of God can come into your heart, into your life, and you can bring the Kingdom of God to this earth through your life, just as Jesus did that.

- The word Christian means *little Christ*. We can become like Christ on earth as it is in heaven.
- That's why we pray the most famous prayer of all time, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."
- If you believe in Christ: you can proclaim the Kingdom of God; you can demonstrate the Kingdom of God.

Why is the Resurrection the Greatest News in the World?

- 1. Jesus's Resurrection is the First Fruits of Our Own Resurrection.**
- 2. Jesus's Resurrection is the Start of His Reign over all Enemies.**
- 3. Jesus's Resurrection Enables Us to Experience God's Power.**

AND LASTLY,

- 4. Jesus's Resurrection Makes Us Unshakable!**

We are all subject to the fear of death.

Hebrews 9:27 "it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."

- We are all subject in this life to the bondage of the fear of death!
- But through the resurrection of Christ, He has take the sting of death away. We will be alive in Him!

Verse 54

"So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'

**“O Death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?”**

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (Verses 54-58)

Yes, you can be an unshakable person through the resurrection of Jesus.

- I’m not afraid of death! You shouldn’t fear death. Jesus has conquered death!
- Psalm 23 “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.”
- The power of death has been broken! The fear of death has been broken over you.
- Victory comes when you have no fears! Do you have fears today? Do you have fears about death? Let’s get rid of them this Easter 2024.

The Resurrection of Christ can Make You Unshakable!

As a freshman at the University of Georgia, I was an athlete and got injured. It was at that time that a person shared with me about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. I was so insecure about my athletic career, my studies, and my future but I read at the time Jesus saying “I came that you might have life and have it abundantly.” I wanted new life, abundant life, and I surrendered my life to His life. He came into my life and changed me from the inside out.

C.S. Lewis, the great writer and professor of Oxford and Cambridge once said,

“God became man to turn creatures into sons: not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. It is not like teaching a horse to jump better and better but like turning a horse into a winged creature.” (C.S. Lewis)

- **Believe in Jesus. Believe in His Resurrection.**
- **You can break off your fears. Believe in Jesus. Believe in His Resurrection.**

Verse 58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

