



Change of Heart

1st Corinthians

The Week of March 21, 2021

1 Corinthians 15

The Resurrection

Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **About Eternity:** (John 14:1-4) I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.





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Intro

- Spring has sprung! What the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the Easter season?
- What was your most memorable Easter experience growing up?
- Who found the “golden” or prize Easter Egg from your childhood?
- Why do you think the world focuses on the symbols of the resurrection more than on the resurrection itself?
- Is the “cancel culture” of the past few months threatening Christian beliefs and practices?
- Are Christians insane to think that Christ rose from the dead?
 - That’s what the people in Athens thought about Paul:

Acts 17:32 (NLT) When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, “We





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want to hear more about this later.”

- That’s the culture that the church members came from in Corinth:

1 Corinthians 15:1–2 (NLT) Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told –unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.





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Reasons to Believe in the Resurrection

1. No Resurrection = Denying Historical Fact

- The following passage was most likely recited as a creed in the early church. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3b-7 aloud as a group.

Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.

He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.





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After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

- Make a list, do the math and come up with a figure of how many were eye witnesses to the resurrected Christ: _____
- Add Paul to the list as one who saw the resurrected Christ:

1 Corinthians 15:8-11 Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church. But whatever I am now





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it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed.

- Explain Paul's experience and how it changed not only his life but the spread of the Gospel.





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2. No Resurrection = Vain Belief and Denial of the Spiritual Revolution

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NLT)

But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then





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your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

- Why is the resurrection the cornerstone of the Gospel and essential to hope in Christ according to this passage?
- Have you ever encountered ridicule, criticism, or social rejection because of your strongly held belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ?
- Share about the time God has moved you from doubt to faith about Christ?





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- How does “no resurrection” make preaching, church, faith, hope and eternity useless?

3. No Resurrection = Senseless Doctrine

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (NLT)
But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest:





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then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back. After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under his authority." (Of course, when it says "all things are under his authority," that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.) Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God's authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.





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- How does Paul connect Adam and Christ in God's story of redemption?
- How does Paul connect the resurrection of Christ to our own future resurrection?
- Why is the Lordship of Christ over all an essential belief to help us endure in spite of opposition?

4. No Resurrection = Game Over

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-34 (NLT)
If the dead will not be raised, what point is there in people being baptized for those who are dead? Why do it unless the dead will someday rise again? And why should we ourselves risk our lives hour by hour? For I swear, dear brothers and sisters, that





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I face death daily. This is as certain as my pride in what Christ Jesus our Lord has done in you. And what value was there in fighting wild beasts – those people of Ephesus – if there will be no resurrection from the dead? And if there is no resurrection, “Let’s feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!” Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.” Think carefully about what is right, and stop sinning. For to your shame I say that some of you don’t know God at all.

- What trials, tribulations and church dysfunction did Paul have to endure needlessly if there was no resurrection?
- What do Christians sacrifice





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to follow their beliefs? (time, finances, resources, relationships, employment, etc.)

- So some in the Corinthian church were getting baptized on behalf of someone who was already dead. That's not biblical at all. There are practices in the church today that we disagree about and cause more distraction than carrying out Christ's commands. How does dysfunction in the church sideline it from "the game."





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- Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 (NLT)
If the dead will not be raised, what point is there in people being baptized for those who are dead? Why do it unless the dead will someday rise again? And why should we ourselves risk our lives hour by hour? For I swear, dear brothers and sisters, that I face death daily. This is as certain as my pride in what Christ Jesus our Lord has done in you. And what value was there in fighting wild beasts—those people of Ephesus—if there will be no resurrection from the dead? And if there is no resurrection, “Let’s feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!” Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.” Think carefully about what is right, and stop





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- What specifically do these passages tell you about the “endgame” for Christ and His followers?
- How do those promises give you hope in the present?

Next Steps

- Read Luke 9:22-24

“The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things,” he said. “He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.” Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give





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up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

- How does Jesus segue from foretelling his death and resurrection to his invitation to be His disciple?
- What does Jesus say are the steps we need to take to be His disciple? (If possible write them out on a board or piece of paper for all to see)
- Read the checklist and mentally reflect on how you are daily doing in fulfilling each step.





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Conclusion

- Read out loud Pastor David's concluding remarks:

“That’s the promised future. If God is to be believed at all, this is the future. and I can count on that future because I can count on the fact of the resurrection. And because of the fact of the resurrection, I can live for Christ with confidence. Even when living for Christ has so many consequences. Even when it’s so hard. I can live confidently because I know that the same God that raised Jesus from the dead will one day raise me from the dead and will one day completely alter reality by overwhelming sin and death. It all ends where it started, with those who love God in his presence worshipping and fellowshiping with Him free from the baggage of sin. How do I know?”





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Because God has declared it to be so and because Jesus is my Resurrected King who is even now preparing the future. That's the invitation to you today. It's to believe the reality of Jesus. To believe he has been raised from the dead and to believe in that future for yourself as a follower of Christ."

