

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (ESV)

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

The Resurrection means EVERYTHING (“first importance”)

1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV)- ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

I. OUR SINS ARE REALLY PAID FOR

“The Resurrection is a giant receipt stamped across history saying your debt has been paid for and you don’t have to pay it ever again.” – Timothy Keller

The fact that our sins are really paid for means that we never have to be afraid that God won’t forgive us. Repentance will always be available through the cross.

II. SUFFERING IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 (ESV)- ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Because Christ lives, so will we!

- “firstfruits”= Christ is the firstfruits of the new creation.

The Resurrection shows us our glorious future

1 Corinthians 15:51-55 (ESV)- ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,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 imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

Suffering is NOT the end of the story; GLORY is.

John 11:25b-26 (ESV)- ²⁵ Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Knowing the glorious end of the story can help us to endure

Hebrews 12:2b (ESV)- “...for the joy that was set before him (Jesus) endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

“No matter how devastating our struggles, disappointments, and troubles are, they are only temporary. No matter what happens to you, no matter the depths of tragedy or pain you face, no matter how death stalks you and your loved ones, the Resurrection promises you a future of immeasurable good. – John Piper

III. JESUS IS LORD

1 Corinthians 15:24-27 (ESV)- ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet...”

The fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead means that He is exactly who He said He was. He is the Lord! And if He is the Lord, then we MUST listen to Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever felt that God would not forgive you of a particular sin? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever doubted the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?
3. Share about a time (if any) when the doctrine of the resurrection has helped you to face a difficult trial in your life.
4. What is one specific area in your life that you are not trusting and obey Jesus in? What steps can you take this week in growing in obedience to the Lord in this area?