

Read

1 Corinthians 15:1-19

Consider

Is the resurrection of Jesus really that important?

The bodily, historical resurrection of Jesus is surely the most momentous event in all history. It is absolutely vital to Christianity and our salvation. It appears in two of the earliest creeds of the faith: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. Paul wrote of it in (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) which reads, "For what I received I passed on to you **as of first importance**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,..." The central theme of the gospel is revealed in these verses, a key text for the defense of Christianity, which can be summarized as: (1) Christ died for our sins (Psalm 16:8-11; Isaiah 53:5-6); (2) He was buried; and, (3) He rose from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said in (Psalm 16:8-11; Psalm 110).

In (v.13-18), Paul explains why he stresses in (v.3) the three points of fact are of prime importance, because the bodily resurrection of Christ is the center of the Christian faith. Christ rose from the dead as he promised, and so we know that what he said is true and that he is God, testifying that:

Firstly, the resurrection affirms the truthfulness of Jesus' life and words.

Secondly, it affirms Jesus' unique authority to say, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). Because he rose, his death defeated death (1 Cor.15:54-57), and we have certainty that our sins are forgiven. He lives and represents us before God. He rose and we know we also will be raised.

Thirdly, his resurrection provides spiritual life for believers in him, that is, it results in their regeneration – being born again (1 Peter 1:3). Related to this is that Christians have already experienced spiritual resurrection, even as we await physical resurrection (Ephesians 2:5-6), and

Fourthly, Jesus' resurrection should encourage Christians to be faithful in obeying and working for the Lord, as Paul says in (1 Cor.15:58), "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Jesus' resurrection, the basis for our hope of resurrection, means that, when all is said and done, all the hard work of being faithful to Christ in this life will be more than worth it.

Deacon Samuel Chan

Pray

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for teaching us through your servant Paul the meaning and implication of your resurrection. It ties in with the basis of our faith and salvation, and most of all your grace of bringing us in reconciliation with God in your mercy and love.

Lord Jesus, your sacrificial love for us is beyond our understanding. The power of overcoming death and your resurrection provide us the solid ground and strength to proclaim that you are the living God. Help us to stand firm in our faith so that we would be able to resist the temptation of the world, and continue to obey and serve you and others in response to your call and love.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Diving Deeper

What importance does the resurrection of Jesus have to the Christian faith? Please review and share your perception from what you have learned.

What does the Bible say about our resurrection? What will our resurrected body be like?

How would Jesus' resurrection affect our daily life today?

How can we live closer **WITH GOD** in our lives?

How are we being **TRANSFORMED** to be more like Christ?

How is the Holy Spirit empowering us to imitate Christ in what we **DO** this week?