

Speaker: Stephen Whitmore
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Reading: 1 Corinthians 15 v 1-8

The resurrection is sure and certain. It distinguishes the gospel from other philosophies. Gospel is a declaration of a work not done by men or angel. It is the cornerstone for everything we believe.

Some questioned if there really was a resurrection. Paul reminds us that “if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain” (v 14)

Paul gives the testimony of the resurrection, of all who saw Him alive. A minimum of 517 witnesses saw Him on at least 5 different occasions. He was nailed to a cross, laid in a tomb, He rose again.

Was He definitely dead?

“He was buried”. The Romans would never have buried alive a man who had been crucified.. When the spear went in His side out came blood and water, it showed that He was dead.

Why is it so important that He was raised?

1. The Confirmation of the Person of Christ.

Rom 1v4 “ Declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead”

Three times in His earthly ministry Jesus raised the dead. Elijah and Elisha also raised the dead. What set the Lord apart? He raised Himself never to die again.

2. Declaration of heaven that demands of God were met.

Rom 4v25 “Who was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification”

Unless the work of Christ was sufficient to deal with our sins in full He would not have been raised.

Rom 8 “Who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect”

What do we need to do?

Rom 4v24 “ If we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead”

Rom 10v9 “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”

We need to confess the “Lord Jesus”. Many may confess Jesus by accepting the facts of history but to confess the “Lord Jesus” is to accept His claims on our life.

When He died, He died for me and my only hope for deliverance is to accept His claims of Lordship on my life.

3. The Assurance of Lasting Salvation

May see the gospel message as being for good living people. May not think you can live up to the claims of the gospel.

Hebrews 7v24-25 speaks of one who will keep us.

The moment you bow to the claims of the Lord Jesus on your life it depends on Him, not you. He takes responsibility of saving to the uttermost - to the end of life, no matter what circumstances come in to our life.

“[Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out](#)” (John 6:37)

4. The Confirmation of the Coming of Christ

In 1 Corinthians 15v20-24 , we learn that He will raise the dead back to life in their order, “[every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. then cometh the end](#)”

1 Corinthians 15v51-52 - Not every believer will die but all will be changed. When the Lord comes He will take all believers to heaven. If we believe, we can be certain we will be raised because He has gone before.

5. The Certainty of Coming Judgment

Acts 17 30,31 - “[God now commandeth all men everywhere to repent for He hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world in righteousness](#)” by His Son Jesus Christ.

The resurrection is proof that all will give account to Him (Rom 14:12).