

## **The Resurrection: Fact or Fiction?**

*1 Corinthians 15:3-8*

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Throughout history, there have been many historical events that occurred. Many, if not most, of these events do not change our lives. Easter Sunday is when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This historical event of Jesus Christ dying and rising from the dead is true and will change our lives!

Paul's letter to the Corinthians was written within 20 years after the death of Jesus Christ. In the letter, he recorded the remarkable appearance of Jesus, after His resurrection, to more than 500 people (1 Cor. 15:6) at once, most of whom were still alive when he wrote the letter. Those who were alive could attest to Jesus' appearance to them, affirming the truth of Paul's remarkable public statement. The evidence and impact of the 500 pointed to the fact that Jesus really died and rose from the dead. As Christians, we celebrate the wonderful truth that our lives are founded upon: Jesus died and rose back to life. He is alive!

While Jesus did revive certain people from the dead, they eventually passed on again. Only Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended to heaven, never to die again.

One of the reasons that Christianity had spread so explosively in the early days was the disciples and the many witnesses of Jesus' death and resurrection. The strongest evidence of the resurrection is found in the disciples. They were ordinary people filled with doubt and faithlessness, even as they walked with Jesus under His discipleship. However, after Jesus' resurrection, they were willing to subject themselves to all kinds of suffering and persecution, even death, all for the sake of the gospel.

Matt. 28:18-20 – Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave the command for His disciples to evangelize by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the promise of His eternal presence with them. The same command and promise are also for all of us. That which gave the disciples such courage and obedience to obey Jesus' command, we now also possess. Let the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and His eternal presence with us give us the courage and strength to evangelize!

If we forget the resurrection, the crosses in our lives would be purposeless. We often bear the crosses that we do not deserve. We suffer because of the sins that others have committed. It is the resurrection of Christ that gives us hope, strength and courage. Jesus is risen and He is with us! His resurrection becomes the stamp of hope that brings life out of the most hopeless situations in our lives. Our stories can have a happy ending, only because Jesus is risen! The ache and thirst for a redemptive solution to our problems; a resurrection; is found in the risen Christ (Re. 21:5). Jesus Christ is not just resurrected; He is alive!

At the cross, Jesus took on our punishment. He died not for a single wrong He did. He died for our wrong; He paid for our sins. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is God's way of giving us a receipt and stamping it: 'paid in full'. It is in Jesus' resurrection that we know that the payment for our sins has been made in full. Jesus is committed to take the dead and hopeless situations in our lives to hope and life. Believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and find hope and courage. Jesus is risen!