

# The Resurrection of Christ

Sunday, April 23, 2000

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I. Man has one enemy that he cannot even think of conquering — death.

*(1 Cor 15:26) "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."*

A. Even the disciples weren't expecting Jesus to rise — to rise from the dead was unthinkable, it is the unconquerable enemy.

*(John 20:9) "For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead."*

1. Jesus had told them over and over, but they still didn't seriously expect it to happen — death is final in the minds of men.
2. His enemies heard and remembered his words about rising again.

*(Mat 27:63) "Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again."*

B. Men have conquered all other things.

1. Sickness, disease, lameness, etc.
2. All the barriers that face men by nature have been conquered, are in the process of being conquered, or at the very least are attempted to be conquered.

C. But death is beyond his reach to even think about conquering.

1. They only dream about it and imagine themselves conquering death.

D. Most carry their loved ones to the graveyard with no hope.

1. Final goodbye — eternal separation.

E. That is what makes death so hard.

1. If we really believe in the resurrection, then we would "sorrow not as others who have no hope" at the death of a Christian.
2. We would realize that death is only temporary separation for the Christian.

II. The only hope any person has ever had to conquer death is the resurrected Christ.

A. No other religion or any of their prophets have proven they were true by overcoming the last enemy.

B. The last enemy got every one of them and their tombs are still occupied.

III. Because He has risen we will rise also.

*(John 20:21) "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."*

*(1 Cor 15:20) "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."*

*(1 Cor 15:23) "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."*

*(Acts 26:23) "That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles."*

*(Rom 8:11) "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."*

*(Col 1:18) "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."*

A. We'll have a new body, just like Christ's body.

*(1 Cor 15:49) "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."*

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*(1 Cor 15:51-58) "Behold, I show 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. {53} For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. {54} So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. {55} O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? {56} The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. {57} But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. {58} Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

IV. You must realize and believe in the resurrected Christ.

*(1 Cor 15:17) "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."*

A. He must be RISEN in your mind and heart.

1. You must be aware that He is fully alive in your life.

B. He must be LORD of your life.

1. A dead Christ does not conquer death for you.

2. A dead Christ gives you no hope past death.