

THE RESURRECTION OF The Lord Jesus- the message that changed the world  
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(1 Corinthians 15)

The preaching of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus was easily the greatest bombshell ever to explode in the ancient world. So completely unexpected and catastrophic to Jewish policy, it was destined to have far-reaching repercussions. Immediately the Jewish world was divided into two sections, and the division has continued to this day. The leaders of the nation declared that the body of Jesus had been stolen; the apostles maintained that Christ had risen again from the dead, and that they had seen Him. If in the final analysis death overcame Jesus, then His ministry ended in defeat. We are therefore obliged to face the issue - either Christ rose again, or He remained in His tomb. In true Pauline fashion, let us consider a few propositions.

If Christ be Risen-Death is not the End

Perhaps the greatest enemy of mankind is death, for all human endeavour seems destined to terminate in a grave. The leading thinkers, the most brilliant of mortals, and all the sons of men walk along pathways which inevitably lead to a tomb. And ever since this ugly spectre came to darken man's outlook, he has asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). Even prior to the proclamation of the Gospel message, the Jewish nation was divided on the subject. The Pharisees believed in the survival of the soul; the Sadducees declared that death terminated existence. Death is the fog barrier clouding distant horizons, and all people speculate as to what lies beyond the reach of mortal vision. If Christ rose again, then our greatest question is answered. Death cannot be the end.

If Christ be Risen-He is the World's Greatest Teacher

This is so because He accurately foretold the event. Constantly He warned His disciples that He would be delivered into the hands of sinful men, would be crucified, and after three days would rise again. That they forgot His message does not alter the fact that He predicted what was to take place. A striking comparison is provided in the case of one of Britain's leading spiritists, who declared that in proof of his faith, he would return after death to attend a special meeting to be convened in London. The meeting was held, and a great audience thronged the auditorium; yet to the disappointment of all, the famous prophet failed to appear. If Christ rose again in fulfilment of His promise, He alone of all the world's teachers was able to accomplish such a miracle.

If Christ be Risen-That is the Secret of New Testament  
Dynamic

Almost as great as the resurrection itself was the complete transformation in the disciples. Men who had fled from Gethsemane in order to save their lives, suddenly acquired a new power which enabled them to scorn the threat of death. Many of these early Christians were thrown to hungry lions; others were burnt at the stake, and -' they held not their lives dear unto them.' They challenged the power of heathen dynasties, and in their own life blood established the creed of their new faith. The resuscitation of their waning hopes, and the subsequent

THE RESURRECTION OF The Lord Jesus- the message that changed the world evangelizing of the world, demand that some explanation be given for this outstanding miracle. If Christ be risen, the problem is immediately solved.

If Christ be Rise - He is Still Accessible to Sinners

If Christ rose again to hide Himself in eternal remoteness, His action was entirely foreign to all that He previously taught, and completely lacking in wisdom. The Saviour never desired the life of a hermit, and constantly sought the presence of those who needed His help. If that same Saviour be risen again from the dead, it is certain that He can still be found by all who seek Him. If this were not true, the Gospel story would have an anti-climax that would make it the laughing-stock of the world. Critics would undoubtedly pinpoint the initial word of these propositions. They would ask how a seeker could be sure of the fact. The answer is very simple. Christ said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Millions of men and women have accepted His invitation; and on the simple evidence that a dead Christ could do nothing, inward peace eloquently testifies So the reality of a risen Lord.

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