

## Monday Why We Need Easter

Easter is the day that we specifically celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He died, but He did not stay dead. That single fact has great importance for those of us who trust Jesus to save us. This week we will study through I Corinthians 15. It is probably the most complete teaching on the resurrection and what differences it makes in our lives.

1. Read I Corinthians 15:1-11 – Paul said in verse 1 that he preached the Gospel. We know that the Gospel is the good news...of what?
2. Verse 2 starts with the phrase “By which also ye are saved.” To what is Paul referring?
3. We preach the good news of the resurrection because it is the resurrection of Jesus Christ that saves us. According to verses 3-4, what three things happened according to the Scriptures?
4. Name the people who saw Jesus after He rose again.
5. Why was it so important to be seen by so many people?
6. Why did Paul not consider himself to be worthy to be an apostle?
7. What was it that allowed him to be an apostle?
8. What personal shortcoming do you feel is hindering your life?
9. What can the grace of God do to overcome those situations?

Christ is alive today! Because of that God’s great grace is available to us to use us for His glory in spite of our shortcomings.

## Tuesday Why We Need Easter

Yesterday we learned that God’s great grace is available to us because of Christ’s resurrection. Today, we will see why the resurrection is so important, not only for eternity, but also for life here and now.

1. Read I Corinthians 15:5-19 – How many people saw Jesus after He rose again?
2. Hundreds of people witnessed Jesus’ death, and hundreds of people witnessed His resurrection. There were apparently some people in Corinth that believed that there was no resurrection. He asked a rhetorical question. What point was he trying to prove by asking it?
3. According to verse 13, if there is no resurrection at all, then Who is still dead?
4. If you are now confused, don’t worry. That’s what Paul was trying to do. He is proving a point that their reasoning doesn’t make any sense. There were eyewitnesses both of Christ’s death and resurrection. There is a resurrection. Christ is alive! Then from verses 14-19, Paul showed what life would be like without Christ’s resurrection. There are 7 of them. List them.
  - a. Verse 14 –
  - b. Verse 14 –
  - c. Verse 15 –
  - d. Verse 17 –
  - e. Verse 17 –
  - f. Verse 18 –
  - g. Verse 19 –

If Christ is still dead, we believe in vain, we pray in vain, we read the Bible in vain, we go to church in vain, we witness in vain. If Christ is still dead, everything we do is vain, empty, and pointless. But Christ is alive. Life has meaning.

### **Wednesday**

#### **Why We Need Easter**

Because Christ rose from the dead, we too can hope of victory over death. Because of the resurrection, death has no eternal power over those who trust in Him. Though Christ's resurrection was the first to last forever, it won't be the last!

1. Read I Corinthians 15:14-28 – Paul made many “if” statements in verses 14-19 concerning Christ's resurrection. He changed his tone in verse 20. He made a statement of fact. What was it?
2. Verse 20 says that Christ is “the firstfruits of them that slept.” The firstfruits was the first part of the harvest and was viewed as a guarantee that the rest of the harvest was coming. What does it mean that Christ is the firstfruits of the resurrection?
3. According to verse 22, just like all die in Adam, all live in Whom?
4. According to verse 23, who will be the next to rise again after Christ?
5. That will happen when Christ comes back. Christ will later reign on earth until when according to verse 25?
6. According to verse 26, what is the last enemy?
7. According to verse 28, after Christ has subdued all His enemies, to Whom will He turn over His entire kingdom?
8. What comfort is it to you that Christ will subdue all things under Him?

Christ will subdue all things under His feet and present His kingdom to His father. Christ will present all that He has to His Father. We should do the same!

### **Thursday**

#### **Why We Need Easter**

Christ is alive, and one day He will subdue all things under Him. He will reign and present His kingdom to God the Father. Though that will happen in the future, those things ought to affect the way we live today.

1. Read I Corinthians 15:25-34 – Paul is not preaching that we need to be baptized so that we in some way help the dead. Paul's basic question in verse 29 is “Why do people bother to get baptized and take a stand for Christ if Christ is still dead?” His point is that it is worth taking a stand for Christ because He is alive, and we will also rise again. How does God want to take a stand for Him?
2. Verse 30 asks a similar question: “Why do we risk our lives being baptized and taking a public stand for Christ if there is no resurrection?” According to verse 31, how often does Paul die?
3. Obviously, he doesn't die physically; he dies to himself, his desires. He is able to do that because he knows his reward is coming later. What desires are keeping you from living for God?
4. According to verse 32, how would people live if there were no resurrection?
5. Paul condemned that philosophy in verse 33. Instead, what did Paul command the people to do in verse 34?
6. Why were they to awake to righteousness and not sin?
7. What actions do you need to change in order to make a greater impact for Christ?

Christ is worth the ridicule and hardship you will face in standing for Him. Your reward will be eternal; it can never be taken away.

## Friday Why We Need Easter

Paul continues his explanation of Christ's resurrection and how it affects us. The next several verses deal specifically with what will happen to the human body after death and the resurrection.

1. Read I Corinthians 15:35-50 – Paul begins this section with an illustration to help us understand his point. He uses the picture of a seed that is planted in the ground. It cannot grow unless what happens first?
2. Verse 37 is saying that you sow a simple seed and get a whole plant from it. According to verse 38, Who determines how it grows?
3. Verses 39-41 continue that thought. Then Paul continues his comparison and contrast with several other statements. According to verse 42, our body is sown how and raised how?
4. Verse 45 mentions two Adams. The first is the one we know from Genesis. The second is Christ. What does this verse teach us about Christ?
5. Verse 46 tells us that even though the second Adam is a life-giving person, the first man is of earth. Where is the Believer's final destination?
6. If our final destination is Heaven, do we need to be prepared for Heaven?
7. Just like disks need to be formatted for the specific computer, our bodies need to be "formatted" for Heaven. This passage teaches that the "formatting" process that prepares a body for Heaven is death. You can't fully experience the resurrection power of Christ until your body dies. Then Jesus can raise it up. Should Christians fear death?

Death should not be feared. It is what gets us ready for Heaven!

## Saturday Why We Need Easter

We are coming to the end of this great chapter about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and how it affects or should affect the way we live our lives each day. Yesterday, we studied about what happens to Believers who die. Today, Paul addresses the issue of what happens to those who live until Christ returns.

1. Read I Corinthians 15:50-58 – A mystery in the Bible was something that was unknown up to that point in time. What was Paul revealing?
2. According to verse 50, why do we need to be changed?
3. According to verse 52, how quickly will the change take place?
4. According to verse 53, what must our mortal, corruptible body put on?
5. According to verse 54, what will be said of death after our bodies are changed?
6. In verse 55 Paul asks two more rhetorical questions. He addresses death and the grave as if they could answer him. It's as if he is sticking out his tongue to death and saying, "Na na na na na." What point is he trying to make?
7. Death is powerless. Who enables us to have victory over death?
8. According to verse 57, what should be our reaction to God for giving us the victory?
9. Are you ready for the time when Christ returns? Are you ready to meet Him?

Christ could come back at any time. At that time we will be changed. Be sure to thank God for the life that is waiting for you.

## **Sunday** **Why We Need Easter**

So far we have seen evidence for the resurrection, the importance of it, when we will experience our resurrection, how the resurrection should affect our behavior, the resurrection of the dead in Christ, and what happens to those who are alive when Christ returns. Today, we will study Paul's one-verse conclusion to the whole matter of Christ's resurrection.

1. Read I Corinthians 15:51-58 – The first word of verse 58 is “therefore.” That means we must look back at what has already been said. What things from this chapter have really stuck out to you?
2. Paul is saying that the resurrection of Christ and our coming resurrection should change the way we live. Paul tells the people of Corinth to be characterized by three words in verse 58. What are they?
3. Paul wanted the people to be steadfast and unmovable in their faith in Jesus Christ and the coming resurrection. There were people who would try to get them to disavow or deny their faith. How does that still happen today?
4. Paul also wanted the people to be always abounding in the work of the Lord. What job does God want you to be faithful in doing for Him?
5. Paul said that we ought to keep going because there is something that we know. What fact keeps up serving Him even when we get tired?
6. If our labor is not in vain, should we ever give up?

Someone will always be trying to get us to quit or give up on our faith. Quitting is easy; persevering is hard. Anyone can quit! God wants you to keep serving Him regardless of persecution, ridicule, or physical weakness. Keep serving God; the rewards are worth it!