

The Resurrection Happened Indeed!

Participant's Guide

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It all comes down to this.

Bodies are a pain. Oh, I know a body can be beautiful: a Baryshnikov dance, babies, and so on. And the psalmist said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." But still, bodies are a pain. There is so much we cannot do. There are so many times our body's desires, demands, faults, and frailties stymie our heart and mind and spirit. No wonder that when the Greek philosophers were shaping a religion, many of them ditched the body after it died and envisioned immortality as spirits free of the millstone of their bodies. To the contrary, this discussion will show the importance of Christ's bodily resurrection.



Scripture: [1 Corinthians 15:12–20](#)

Based On: "It All Comes Down to This," by Lee Eclov, [PreachingToday.com](#)



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Part 1 Identify the Issue

Some of the first Christians in Greece during the first century were happy to hear that Jesus is the Savior who forgives our sins, that he is the Son of God, even that he lives forever. But they nixed the whole resurrection-of-the-body business. “Can’t be!” they said. “Bodies are a pain. They’re baggage. Once they’re in the ground, that’s where they stay. Good riddance!”

So the apostle Paul wrote them a letter. “There are two things every new Christian gets right at the beginning,” Paul said, in effect. I received these two truths when I became a Christian, and these are the first two things I preached to you, and that you received: (1) Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and he was buried; (2) He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and he appeared in his new body to all kinds of witnesses in all kinds of places. ... Whether you heard it from those witnesses or from me, this is what we preach and this is what you believed. But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Today, there are all kinds of reasons why people do not believe in physical resurrection. And there are many who do not believe that Jesus himself rose physically from the dead. In this part of this long chapter on the resurrection, Paul says this: If bodily resurrection is not possible, you take away the resurrection of Jesus. And if you take the resurrection of Christ from Christians, you take all we have.

Part 2 Discover the Eternal Principles

Teaching Point One: Without the resurrection of Christ our faith is empty.

Teaching Point Two: Without the resurrection of Christ, we’ve been wrong about God.

Teaching Point Three: Without the resurrection of Christ, our hope of salvation is futile.



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Part 3 Apply Your Findings

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead”! The Scriptures said it would be so, and it *is* so. Eyewitnesses have seen him, and our own lives are proof of it. Christ is risen indeed! So, our faith is not empty, but full and running over! We open the treasure chest to find treasures of every kind! What’s more, we are telling the truth about God. He really is our Redeemer and Lifegiver, the triumphant lover of our souls and our selves. Because Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!

Action Point: It’s letter-writing time! Who needs to hear the announcement: Christ has indeed been raised from the dead! Maybe it’s a friend or family member who needs to hear this for the first time. Maybe it is a discouraged believer. Or maybe you can write a thank you letter to the person who first proclaimed that message to you.

—Study by Lee Eclou, with Kyle White

