

- If you were asked what the single most important happening of the Bible was, how would you respond? Some would probably point towards creation. Certainly that is a pretty monumental portion of the Bible. Others might respond with the flood. Some might say that the birth of Jesus or the death of Jesus was the single greatest moment of the story of the Bible. Certainly all of these suggestions are very important moments in the Biblical story, but I would suggest that there is no greater single moment than that moment when Jesus was raised from the dead.
- The Apostle Paul seemed to see the awesome value of the resurrection because he dedicated a great deal of writing in his first letter to the Corinthians concerning the subject. In **I Corinthians 15**, Paul goes into depth concerning the importance of Jesus's resurrection and about some realities of it. I would like for us to consider 4 extremely important and encouraging realities of the resurrection of Jesus this morning.

#### **4 Realities of Jesus's Resurrection**

##### **I. His resurrection is not without evidence. (vv.1-10)**

- A. Many skeptics would chalk up the resurrection of Jesus to nothing more than a myth or fairy tale, or they would give some explanation for why it wasn't miraculous in nature.
  1. Some have said that the story of Jesus being raised is nothing more than folklore that was created way back to create chaos and confusion during those days.
  2. Others say that Jesus never died and that He just fainted and then came back to consciousness.
  3. Some more might say that Jesus's body was stolen by His disciples or the Jews.
  4. Those who stand to lose something because of the resurrection of Jesus will always try to show it as being false and a lie.
- B. The evidence tells a different different story. It points towards there being a legitimate resurrection from the dead.
  1. This evidence is very important because the resurrection is of the utmost importance. **(vv.3,4)**
  2. His greatest evidence is that our risen Lord showed Himself to hundreds of people before His ascension back to heaven. **(vv.5-8)**
  3. Paul stresses the point to the Corinthians that they could still go and talk to those who had seen Jesus after His death. There were dozens and dozens of credible witnesses that could validate the claim of Jesus's resurrection.
  4. Even beyond the witnesses, the great changes in some of the Jews and the Apostles points to the unavoidable conclusion that Jesus was, in fact dead, and that He did raise from the dead. Possibly no greater evidence is there then that of the Apostle Paul himself. **(vv.9,10)** The evidence is quite compelling.

##### **II. His resurrection validates our faith. (vv.11-22)**

- A. Paul is very matter of fact concerning the consequences of Jesus not having been raised.
  1. Unfortunately, we have not been provided with any previous conversation between the Corinthians and Paul.
  2. However, we can reasonably assume based upon **v.12** that there was some sort of misunderstanding and possibly even public false teaching concerning the resurrection.
  3. Paul makes it very clear that if Jesus had not been raised, then Christians were a people to be most pitied **(v.19)** because their faith is worthless **(v.17)** and in vain. **(v.14)**
  4. Without Jesus being raised, these people had sacrificed in this life for nothing and they had no hope beyond the grave. **(v.18)** They had wasted part of their life for nothing.
- B. But the fact was that Jesus has been raised and because of His raising, our faith means something.
  1. Paul quickly responds to this type of thinking by saying that Jesus did in fact raise and that because of his raising we do have hope of life after death. **(v.20)**
  2. His raising means that He was not a fraud or liar. He was not a con artist, but He really was God in the flesh. **(Matt. 16:18; John 2:19-22)**
  3. His resurrection gives us a reason to live for Him in this life. We have a reason to put all of our faith and trust in Him. We don't believe in a dead man, but we believe in a risen Savior.

### **III. His resurrection shows His authority & power. (vv.23-33)**

- A. Paul explains that Jesus has all authority because of His resurrection from the dead.
  - 1. We are familiar with the words of **Matthew 28:18**, “**all authority has been given to me (Jesus) in heaven and on earth.**”
  - 2. Also, we read in **Acts 2:33-36** that the risen Jesus was exalted to the position of authority at the right hand of God. God would make His enemies His footstool, and He was declared Lord and Christ.
  - 3. These exhalations and giving of authority were a direct result of His resurrection from the dead and subsequent establishment of His Kingdom in the Church.
  - 4. Jesus has all authority within His Kingdom (**vv.24-27**) and all things are subject to His will. We therefore, as citizens of His kingdom must honor and respect His wishes as the sole Authority.
- B. The great power of Jesus was also shown through His resurrection.
  - 1. No greater force has ever been faced on the earth than that of death, yet Jesus conquered death. (**v.26**)
  - 2. He also conquered the evil and wickedness of this world. Evil tried to defeat good through the killing of Jesus, but his resurrection overcame them all.
  - 3. Satan and his evil plans were not going to be victorious over the Great God of heaven, and the fact that Jesus was raised after 3 days shows that He will never be defeated.

### **IV. His resurrection gives us hope for our own victorious resurrection. (vv.34-58)**

- A. Because of His resurrection, we will be resurrected and changed.
  - 1. Paul concludes his teachings on the resurrection by speaking to some of those things that will happen on that day. (**vv.35-44**)
  - 2. Our bodies will not be the same as they were here on earth. The earthly will become heavenly. The perishable body will become imperishable. The weak body will be raised in power. The natural body will become the spiritual body.
  - 3. We are not given any sort of great detail on what that new heavenly, imperishable, powerful, and spiritual body will be, but we can certainly be confident that it will not be as we are today.
- B. Through this resurrection we will have the victory over death, this world, and Satan.
  - 1. None of us look forward to death, but we need to remember that death isn't the end for the Christian. There will be a day when the dead will be raised and they will put on immortality. (**vv.51-54**)
  - 2. In that day, death will be defeated permanently. Death will be mocked because its victory and sting will no longer afflict the children of God.
  - 3. In that day, the Christian will have the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (**v.57**)
  - 4. If we want to have that victory in the last day, then we must be steadfast, immovable, and always striving to work for the Lord in all things. (**v.58**)
  - 5. The resurrection of Jesus made the victory possible, and it makes our work completely worthwhile.

We do not know the time when that day will come. We don't know when we will die, and we don't know when the dead will be raised. However, we can know if we will be ready for that day of resurrection. It is coming, and if we want to be ready then we need to follow the authority of Jesus in all that we do. May God help us to stay within the way that leads to that home in heaven with Him. May He help us to glorify Him here during our short stay, so that we might glorify Him forever past that last day.