

Sermon series: The Big Picture
Sermon title: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Resurrection Day- April 21, 2019
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
Pastor S.C. Brown

Let me begin today by asking you a few questions.

What will you be doing in 500 years?

What about 50 thousand years?

What about 50 million years?

You may think that's an odd question, maybe even irrelevant.

Is it really a silly or irrelevant question?

Not according to Jesus.

He said in **John 11** the following words,

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?"

Well, what you will be doing 50 million years from now is entirely dependent on Jesus Christ's own resurrection and his ability to raise others.

Turn in your Bibles to **1st Corinthians 15**.

There's no greater place to look to understand the Resurrection.

The context of this chapter is there are some who say that when people die, they aren't raised to life or don't go anywhere. Paul is going to refute that.

Is there evidence that the Resurrection actually took place? Did Jesus actually die and then rise from the dead? And does he have the power to raise others?

I. THE WITNESS OF THE SCRIPTURES.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says, "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...."

Isaiah 25:6-8 says this, "*On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the*

veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever.

Isaiah 53 and **Psalms 16** both speak of God's holy one not "experiencing corruption" and after he gives himself as an offering for sin and guilt, he will live.

II. THE EYE WITNESSES.

Look in **1 Corinthians 15:5-8**,
*"He **appeared** to Cephas [Peter], then to the twelve. Then he **appeared** to more than 500 brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he **appeared** to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he **appeared** also to me."*

Paul uses the word "appeared" 4 times here. He wants the Corinthians (and us) to know....that people **SAW** him. When he wrote this, these people were still alive. "Go and talk to them." "They're still alive." "Go ask them."

500 people at the same time!!! **500!**

Either Jesus is alive or all of these people are fakes and liars.

Paul says there are two things that testify that Jesus is alive:

I. The witness of the scriptures.

II. Eye witnesses.

So, Paul is going to give a defense of the Resurrection of Christ and his ability to raise others by making an argument in the rest of the chapter.

What if Jesus didn't rise again? Then what?

- [verse.14] **People's preaching is in vain**. We are going around wasting our breath telling people that if they believe in a dead guy, they'll have eternal life. Ha. We are chasing after the wind, *if Jesus isn't raised*.
- [verse.14] **People's faith is in vain & futile** [v.17] Those who daily pray and trust in God, who cry out to him in faith are wasting their time. Their living in a dream world, *if Jesus isn't raised*.
- [verse.15] **Christians are misrepresenting God**. We are leading people astray. The blind leading the blind –off an eternal cliff! Telling people lies about God, *if Jesus isn't raised*.

- [verse.17] **People are still in their sins.** People think they are clean, but their not. Still under the wrath of God, still guilty, still dirty, and still unable to change...*if Jesus isn't raised.*
- [v.18] **Those who have died believing in Christ have perished.** My dad. Your friend...who died with their eyes on Christ...gone. Not in heaven. Not with Christ. Perished....*if Jesus isn't raised.*
- [v.19] **Christians are most to be pitied.** Christians are the most pathetic people on the planet. Staying pure till marriage! Wasting their only day off going to church! Missing some pretty good movies! Being faithful to only one woman! Getting up early to read the Bible! Expecting to go to heaven when they die! Ridiculous life we live....*if Jesus isn't raised.*
- [v.30-33] **Persecution is absurd.** How stupid to be in danger. How dumb to be ridiculed. How sad to live a life of suffering for a man who isn't alive!

In verse 32, Paul says that, ***"If the dead are not raised {and if Christ isn't raised}, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.'"***

That's true you know. If Christ isn't raised just have fun.

[v.20] ***“BUT, in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”***

- Our preaching is not in vain—but is **powerful and used by God to save souls.** (Romans 1:16)
- Our faith is not in vain or futile—but **faith is the assurance of things hoped for. Evidence of things not seen.** (Hebrews 11:1)
- We are not mis-representing God, but **we are Christ’s ambassadors. God is making his appeal through us.** (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- We are not still in our sins but **our sins are forgiven.** We are white as snow. As far as the east is from the west..he has removed them from us. (Acts 10:43) (Psalm 103:12)
- Those who have died have not perished, but **have everlasting life with God in heaven.** (John 3:16)
- And we are not to be pitied. **We are most to be envied!** We have sins removed, guilt removed, peace with God, he makes us new people, we get eternal life and a glorious inheritance.

- Being is a missionary isn't a wasted life.
Being persecuted isn't stupid. But rejoice and be glad for **great is your reward in heaven.**

Paul says Christ is the Firstfruits.
What does he mean by that?

The first of many.

What happened to him will happen to the rest.
What happened to him will happen to all who believe.

[v.51] *"Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus died and rose again.

The scriptures predicted that he would.
A lot of people saw him with their own eyes.
It is true.

New City Catechism 50

'Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come.'

In closing, you may be here today and this may sound like good news to you.

"I can be forgiven of my sin?"

"Jesus paid for my sins?"

"I can have a new life and eternal life with God?"

Yes, you can.

Turn away from your sinful life and turn to Jesus and believe. Believe what the Bible says about him and that he's alive.

Jesus said in **John 6:40**, *"Everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*

If you're a follower of Jesus Christ today and you believe in the Resurrection, how can the Resurrection bring you encouragement, hope, strength and joy?

Well, look in **verse 56**.

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain."

Your labor is not in vain because Jesus is alive.
Keep on brother. Stay focused on Christ.
Keep on sister. Keep laying your life down for Christ.
Pour out your life today Christian for the things that will matter 40 million years from now.

**Jesus is alive and he's coming back to get you
.....and he will raise you up on the last day.**