

# Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

## 31 - So Why Is The Resurrection Such A Big Deal?

Romans 1:1-7 / 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 11, 2014

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### 6 Reasons Why The Resurrection Is Such a Big Deal

- I. **If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, we'd have no foundation for preaching the hope of the Gospel.**  
(1 Cor. 15:14 ).

1 Cor. 15:14     <sup>14</sup> And if Christ is not risen, **then our preaching *is* empty** and your faith *is* also empty.

A dead savior can't give life. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, the good news of the Gospel would be bad news.

- II. **If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, our faith would be meaningless.**  
(1 Cor. 15:14 ).

1 Cor. 15:14     And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty **and your faith *is* also empty.**

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, we would lack the "substance of things hoped for" that is the very foundation of our faith.

Heb. 11:1        Now faith is the **substance of things hoped for**, the evidence of things not seen.

- III. **If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, all who witnessed the resurrection and preached the risen Christ would be outright liars. (1 Cor. 15:15 ).**

1 Cor. 15:15     Yes, and we are found **false witnesses of God**, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up...

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, those who claim to have witnessed the risen Christ wouldn't just be in wrong, but willfully mistaken since they preached something that would've never taken place.

1 Cor. 15:5-8 <sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

The consequences of Jesus having not risen from the grave also have life-changing effects on you & me!

**IV. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, we would still be in our sins! (1 Cor. 15:17)**

1 Cor. 15:17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; **you are still in your sins!**

Our sins are only paid for *if* Jesus was raised from the dead for our justification!

Rom. 4:23-25 <sup>23</sup> Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, <sup>24</sup> but also for us. **It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,** <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up because of our offenses, **and was raised because of our justification.**

Our hope of life beyond the grave exists only if Jesus lives beyond the grave!

John 14:19,20 <sup>19</sup> "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. **Because I live, you will live also.** <sup>20</sup> **At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.**

**V. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, all believers who have already died would perish eternally. (1 Cor. 15:18)**

1 Cor. 15:18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

**VI. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, Christians would be the most pitiful people on the planet! (1 Cor. 15:19)**

1 Cor. 15:19 <sup>19</sup> If in this life only we have hope in Christ, **we are of all men the most pitiable.**

*“To have hoped in Christ in this life only would be to teach, preach, suffer, sacrifice, and work entirely for nothing. If Christ is still dead, then He not only cannot help us in regard to the life to come but He cannot help us now. If He cannot grant us eternal life, He cannot improve our earthly life. If He is not alive, where would be our source of peace, joy, or satisfaction now? The Christian life would be a mockery, a charade, a tragic joke.”*

~ John MacArthur

## **BUT...since Jesus DID rise from the dead...**

...we don't identify ourselves with the fleeting pleasures, shortcomings & disappointments of this life, but look forward to sharing in the glory of Jesus Christ for eternal life!

1 Cor. 15:20-22 <sup>20</sup> But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

...we can grab hold of the hope of the resurrection to endure the hardships of this life!

1 Cor. 15:30-32 <sup>30</sup> And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? <sup>31</sup> I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. <sup>32</sup> If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage *is it* to me? If *the* dead do not rise, *“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”*

...we can grab hold of the hope of the resurrection to as power to say “NO” to sin!

1 Cor. 15:33-34 <sup>33</sup> Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” <sup>34</sup> Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.