

Doctrine of the Resurrection

1. The reality of the resurrection of Christ is the foundation upon which the Christian faith is built. If Christ be not risen from the dead, then He is not the Son of God with power, and there is no Spirit of holiness.
2. Faith collapses and the world is plunged into spiritual darkness if Christ is not the true Light of the world, ascended into heaven, and seated at the right hand of God the Father. Because of the centrality of the resurrection we consider this doctrine once more by turning to 1 Corinthians 15.
3. The Prominence of the Resurrection
 - *1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
4. The fact of the resurrection.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
5. The time of the resurrection.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
6. Concerning the date of the resurrection, two days have been contended for: Friday, which is the traditional view and Wednesday, which is the more modern view. The Bible says, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:40

• 9:00 AM	Crucifixion	
• 12:00 PM	Darkness	
• 3:00 PM	Death	
• 6:00 PM	Burial	
24 HOURS	24 HOURS	24 HOURS
Day One	Day Two	Day Three
6:00 PM Wednesday to 6:00 PM Thursday	6:00 PM Thursday to 6:00 PM Friday	6:00 PM Fri to 6:00 PM Sat

7. Concerning the date of the death of Christ and His resurrection, Church historian Philip Schaff notes the following: *"The day of the week on which Christ suffered on the cross was a Friday, during the week of the Passover, in the month of Nisan, which was the first of the twelve lunar months of the Jewish year, and included the vernal equinox"* (Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. I., p. 133).
8. The most probable date and time of the crucifixion was AD 30, the 15th of Nisan, which fell on Friday (April 7) between 9 AM - 3 PM. During those six hours the world was changed.
9. That the day was FRIDAY is indicated in various passages.
 - *Mark 15:42 "the day before the sabbath" (Saturday).*
 - *Matthew 27:62 "the day of preparation"*
 - *Luke 23:54 "that day was the preparation, and the sabbath (Saturday) drew on"*
 - *John 19:14 "it was the preparation of the Passover"*
10. Friday is called *"preparation day"* because the meals for the Sabbath were prepared on the sixth day, as no fires were allowed to be kindled on the Sabbath (Ex. 16:5).
11. The idea that Jesus died on Wednesday, not Friday, is grounded in a concern for exact literalism of such passages as Matthew 12:40 without taking into account Jewish considerations of time in which a part of a day was reckoned as the full day.
12. As interesting as the concept is, the idea that Jesus died on Wednesday is not necessary to embrace for a variety of reasons.
 - All the other events of the Last Week would need to be condensed in time and reassigned to other days.
 - The Jews considered part of a day to be a full day thereby fulfilling the prophecy of Matthew 12:40. *Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*
 - The natural reading of the gospel narratives indicates a weekly Sabbath not a special Sabbath.
 - The earliest tradition of the church honored Friday as the day Christ died. Those closest to the scene of action would surely be more familiar with the events than others two thousand years later.
 - New interpretations of the scripture should always give more honor to the historical position of the church when that position has always been consistent.

- ❖ Damascus Acts 9:1-9
- ❖ Corinth Acts 18:9
- ❖ Jerusalem Acts 23:11
- ❖ Ship
- ❖ Lystra 2 Corinthians 12:1-4
- John, Isle of Patmos Revelations 1

17. The Priority of the Resurrection.

- *1 Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

- ❖ The Fraud Theory
- ❖ The Swoon Theory
- ❖ The Vision Theory
- ❖ The Spirit Theory -- only the Spirit of Jesus was resurrected
- ❖ The Heart Theory -- Jesus is resurrected in our hearts

18. The Fallacies of Christendom. If the doctrine of the resurrection of Christ is not true then the following points are.

- All gospel preaching has been and is now useless
- All gospel preachers are liars and fools
- All living people are still in their sins
- All reasons for life are destroyed
- The body of Christ has rotted in a Middle Eastern graveyard
- Christian ordinances such as baptism are silly 1 Corinthians 15:29. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then why do the Living carry the standard left by departed believers?
- Suffering for the Saviour is meaningless
- Hedonism should be embraced.

- *1 Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.*

19. The Triumph of the Resurrection Reflected in the Feast of the First Fruits (1 Corinthians 15:20-28 cf. Leviticus 23)

- Day One. Selected representatives select a spot in the grain field from which the sheaf would be cut. Symbolically, this spoke of Christ who was chosen by God.
- Day Two. The sheaf was cut and carried into the Temple. Christ was cut off.
- Day Three. The sheaf was presented to the Lord. Christ arose from the dead.

20. The Exhortation Based Upon the Resurrection.

Christians are to awake to righteousness and sin not.

1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

- Christians are to avoid those who deny the resurrection and live as the hedonist.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

21. The Pattern that the Resurrection Offers.

- *1 Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come? 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.*
- Our body, like a grain of wheat, shall one day die. It has no power to stop this process nor change itself.
- Our body, like a grain of wheat, shall be changed in death (Study John 12:24). Death does not suppress life but releases it. *John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*
- Our body, like a grain of wheat, will not lose its identity. *1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

22. The Contrast of the Resurrection Body

- The Old Natural Body,
 - ❖ Sown in corruption. *1 Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:*
 - ❖ Sown in dishonor. *1 Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:*
 - ❖ Sown in weakness being subject to diseases and infirmities. *1 Corinthians 15:43 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:*
 - ❖ Sown a natural body subject to the laws of nature. *1 Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

The New Resurrection Body

- ❖ Is raised in incorruption and cannot perish. *1 Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:*
- ❖ Is raised in glory to live in a perfected world. *1 Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:*
- ❖ Is raised in power so that it is not susceptible to disease and infirmities. *1 Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:*
- ❖ Is raised a spiritual body and is not subject to the known laws of nature. *1 Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

23. The Assurances of the Resurrection. *1 Corinthians 15:50-53 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

- We shall all be changed
- The change will happen suddenly
- Corruption will put on incorruption
- Mortal persons will put on immortality
- Some who are living will not die.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

24. The Glory of the Resurrection. *1 Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

- It defeats physical death. *1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. Psalms 55:4 My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.*
- It defeats the world. *Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: 1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- It defeats the flesh. *Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*
- It defeats the devil. *Matthew 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*
- It defeats spiritual death. *Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. John 8:51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.*

25. Because of the resurrection let the work of the Lord continue.

- *1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

A Diary of the Last Week

- April 2 Palm Sunday. Jesus rode into Jerusalem Mark 11:1-11 and spent the night at Bethany Matthew 1:1-11, 14-17; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19
- April 3 Monday. Jesus turned the traders out of the temple. Matthew 21:12-13; and then spent the night at Bethany Luke 19:45-46
- April 4 Tuesday. Jesus was in the temple so we have the stories in Luke 21:1-4 with the widow's mite, the talents, and the foolish virgins. Jesus spent the night at Bethany.
- April 5 Wednesday. The grand conspiracy began. Matthew 26:1-16. Jesus spent the night at Bethany Luke 22:1-6
- April 6 Maundy [command] Thursday was the night of the last supper Matt. 25:17-20. At the supper Peter protested his unfaithfulness Luke 22:7-30 while Jesus took time to wash the disciple's feet Matt 26:36-56; 22:39-53. Jesus is arrested. John. 28:1-12
- April 7 Good Friday brings forth Peter's denial Matthew 26:69-75, the trial before Pilate. Mark 14:66-72 the crucifixion Matthew 27:1-61 and the burial of Jesus Luke 23:1-56; John 19:1-42. On Friday evening before sunset Jesus is buried Matthew 27:62-66.