

## What If Christ Had Not Risen From the Dead?

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Dr. George Sweeting tells of an incident in the early 1920s when Communist leader Nikolai Bukharin was sent from Moscow to Kiev to address an anti-God rally. For an hour he abused and ridiculed the Christian faith until it seemed as if the whole structure of belief was in ruins. Then questions were invited. An Orthodox Christian rose and asked to speak. He turned, faced the people, and gave the Easter greeting, "He is risen!" Instantly the assembly rose to its feet and the reply came back loud and clear, "He is risen indeed!"

Phillips Brooks wrote:

“Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;  
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;  
Stronger than the dark, the light;  
Stronger than the wrong, the right;  
Faith and Hope triumphant say,  
Christ will rise on Easter Day.”

Jesus declared in Revelation 1:18:

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

Jesus is the only One who has risen from the dead to prove His personal claims and substantiate His promise of eternal life. Jesus is alive forevermore. At the same time, Jesus also took control over the realm of death, dying, and the destiny of human spirits when He passed through death, defeated it, and rose again. This is what is meant by Jesus possessing the “keys” of death. Jesus possesses the “keys” or authority to control the eternal destinies of mankind and this is illustrated by His power to raise the dead (John 5:28-29), judge the lost in hell (Acts 17:31; Rev. 20:11-15), or give them eternal life (John 11:25-26) and a place in Heaven (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:16-17). Jesus came out of death, so we can come out of death. He opened a door that leads out of death and which gives us the hope of eternal life and also the promise of an eternal body.

So, what if Christ had not risen from the dead? What if Christ was dead and His body was still in the grave? What would be the theological repercussions of a dead Christ? Paul answers this question in 1 Corinthians 15. Answering this question reminds us of the importance of the resurrection of Christ and how this teaching is the central message and cornerstone of Christianity.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 states:

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve.”

Here is a summary of these verses.

Christ died for our sins (paying sin’s penalty – Rom. 6:23); He was buried (proving the finality of His death – John 19:41); He rose again the third day (providing evidence the Father had accepted the Son’s sacrifice – Luke 24:6-7); He appeared to hundreds of people (producing the necessary verification of His resurrection – Acts 1:3).

The resurrection of Christ is an essential part of the Gospel message for Christ’s resurrection gives the proof that He really did die “for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3), or pay the necessary redemptive price, which was to bear our judgment for sin, and satisfy God’s requirement for sin (1 John 2:2).

Romans 4:25 says:

“Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

The death of Christ is the GROUND of our justification (“justified by his blood” - Rom. 5:9) but the resurrection of Christ is the PROOF of our justification before God (“raised again for our justification” - Rom. 4:25). The death of Christ is the SOURCE of our justification before God (Rom. 5:9) but the resurrection of Christ must be the SECURITY of our justification before God (Rom. 4:25). Jesus rose from the grave to deliver and guarantee our justified or righteous standing before God in Heaven. The bodily resurrection of Christ is God’s validation (confirmation or proof) that the redemption price (Christ’s payment for sin) on the cross was

accepted by the Father, which resulted in our justified position before God's presence. Christ's death has the power to SAVE us (Rom. 5:9) and His risen life has the power to KEEP us (Rom. 5:10).

The resurrection of Christ was the receipt that God gave to the world that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Rom. 1:4) and that the Father accepted His Son's sacrifice (Rom. 3:24). Furthermore, this receipt was marked with the words "paid in full" (John 19:30). Christ's resurrection informs all mankind that Jesus paid the penalty for sin (our debt) in full and that Jesus can now save us completely and forever (Heb. 7:25).

These are wonderful truths that cause us to rejoice. But what if Christ had not risen from the dead? What hope could we possess, what kind of person would we be, and where would we go after we die, if Christ had not risen of the dead?

Dr. Seamands tells of a Muslim who became a Christian in Africa. "Some of his friends asked him, 'Why have you become a Christian?' He answered, 'Well, it's like this. Suppose you were going down the road and suddenly the road forked in two directions, and you didn't know which way to go, and there at the fork in the road were two men, one was dead and one was alive--which one would you ask which way to go?'"

John 14:6

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

We now come to our main text for this study in 1 Corinthians 15.

What if Christ had not risen from the dead?

There are seven sad results if Christ had not risen from the dead.

**1. We would not have a bodily resurrection (vv. 12-13, 16).**

1 Corinthians 15:12-13 declares:

"Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen."

There were those among the people (“some”) who could not accept the idea of the Gospel and Christ’s resurrection. They were steeped in Greek philosophy. These unbelieving philosophers are seen later in this chapter.

1 Corinthians 15:35

“But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?”

The dualism of Greek philosophy considered everything spiritual to be intrinsically good and everything physical (human body) to be intrinsically evil. Therefore, there was disbelief in the bodily resurrection of humans and Jesus Christ.

The typical view of dualism was expressed by Seneca:

“When the day shall come which shall part this mixture of divine and human here where I found it, I will leave my body, and myself I will give back to the gods.”

There are always “some” who do not accept the idea of a literal and bodily resurrection after death. These people tried to downplay the resurrection and disbelieved in the miraculous. In our own day we still have many thinkers that have been schooled in the liberal, brainy universities, which try to reject all the miracles of the Bible. They are still rejecting the resurrection of Christ. They still do not believe in the resurrection of Christ as they propagate their swoon theories and other myths that surround the resurrection of Christ. Along with these, Eastern beliefs have begun to replace Easter beliefs! The truth about the resurrection of believers, based upon Christ’s resurrection, is being abandoned for the Eastern religious beliefs of karma and reincarnation. I’m glad the Bible teaches resurrection and not reincarnation. I’d rather come back with a new body instead of coming back as ladybug or porcupine!

I don’t know why people think that it’s hard for God to raise the dead. If He could create the world in six days (and He did!), He surely can raise the dead!

Acts 26:8

“Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?”

A workman of the great chemist Michael Faraday accidentally knocked a silver cup into a solution of acid. The cup was promptly dissolved, eaten up by the acid. The workman was terribly disturbed by the accident. The chemist (Faraday) came in and put a chemical into the jar, and shortly all the silver was precipitated to the bottom. The shapeless mass was lifted out and sent to the silversmith, and the cup was restored to its original shape. Now think of this. If a human genius can do a thing like this, why should we doubt that God can raise the dead? Well, God can raise the dead and He raised His Son from the dead, so we can have the promise of eternal life, forgiveness before God, and someday a new body.

In 1 Corinthians 15:12-13, Paul reasons that if there is no resurrection of the human body, then you must take the philosophical and fanciful reasoning the whole way and come to the conclusion that Christ has never been raised from the dead. Of course, this is exactly what the philosophers wanted the people to do – doubt the resurrection of Christ. But Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:12 that “If Christ be preached” (the message declared by Christians) “that he rose from the dead,” then it’s inconsistent for the false teachers (philosophers) to try and convince God’s saints that they will not be raised from the dead (“how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?”).

If the Gospel message proclaims that Christ rose from the dead, then why are some teaching that there is no resurrection of the bodies of Christians from the dead? Paul wants to get the saints to listen to his theological logic. They need to understand that the believer’s resurrection and the Christ’s resurrection are inseparably linked together. They are two sides of the same coin. They are like two peas on the same pod.

1 Corinthians 15:13 sums it up like this:

“But if there be no resurrection of the dead (bodily resurrection of Christians), then is Christ not risen.”

What a sobering reality! What a theological and personal disaster it would be, if Christ had not risen from the dead. If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then we would never be raised from the dead. This is the theological truth of the matter. The believer’s resurrection is built upon the foundation and truth of Christ’s resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 declares:

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Christ’s own resurrection guarantees a future harvest to come! All of those who are “in Christ” are related to Him by spiritual birth and will one day in the future be raised from the dead, just like Christ. Therefore, it’s silly to reason that God’s saints won’t be bodily raised from the dead, since Christ Himself was raised from the dead, in order to bring forth a harvest of resurrection in the future.

I can remember as a little boy how the trains would pass by on the railroad tracks. The engineer would wave to me. Of course, the engine was always first and would be pulling the rest of the train. In one sense, Christ is the engine of the resurrection program that gets everything started. His resurrection assures that others are coming!

1 Corinthians 15:16 reemphasizes this same truth:

“For if the dead rise not (if the bodies of Christians are not raised from the dead), then is not Christ raised.”

Paul’s point is this, if God’s people do not rise from the dead and experience a bodily resurrection, then Christ has not experienced a bodily resurrection from the grave. But Jesus Christ and His bodily resurrection from the realm of death gives us the reassurance of our own future resurrection.

John 11:25

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

As a young man, D. L. Moody was called upon suddenly to preach a funeral sermon. He hunted all through the Four Gospels trying to find one of Christ’s funeral sermons, but searched in vain. He found that Christ raised the dead at every funeral that He attended. Death could not exist where He was. When the dead heard His voice they sprang to life. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection, and the life.”

This means that Jesus Christ has the power, right, and authority to raise the dead.

Jesus said in John 14:19:

“Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.”

This is the promise of Jesus Christ! Do you believe this promise today? Since Jesus is alive, all those who are rightly related to Him, through salvation, will also be raised from the dead by His own power and live with Him forever in Heaven. Your own bodily resurrection depends upon Christ's resurrection from the dead. Jesus must first defeat death, as the great Victor, before we can defeat death. He leads the way and opens up the pathway of victory for us. Jesus suffered in our place and defeated the realm of death for every blood-washed believer. Because of Jesus Christ's resurrection we have eternal life and the promise of our own resurrection!

Sadly, a newer survey conducted by the Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University found most Americans do not believe they will experience a resurrection of their bodies when they die. Only 36 percent of adults surveyed said "yes" when asked, "Do you believe that, after you die, your physical body will be resurrected someday?" Fifty-four percent said they did not believe, and 10 percent were undecided.

In 1 Corinthians 15:52-57, Paul gives us an overview of the glorious resurrection and transformation day for God's Church Age saints. We must remember that this passage appears in the same chapter that deals with the Gospel which includes Christ's resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-3). In a word, Christ's death and resurrection not only gives His saints the assurance of deliverance from God's wrath and judgment through the gift of eternal life (1 Cor. 15:1, 55-57) but also reassures them of their own future, bodily deliverance from the realm of physical death via resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51-54).

Notice three hopeful blessings from this text:

a. The statement of truth

1 Corinthians 15:52-54

“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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 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.”

This is confidence and triumph! Death is swallowed up in victory. The word “Death” (thanatos) in this verse appears to be speaking of the saint’s victory over physical death at the time of the Rapture.

W. E. Vine states:

“The swallowing up of death expresses the complete removal of every trace of the physical effects of sin and the curse and Satan’s power.”

God’s saints who have died are going to rise from the dead someday!

“On the resurrection morning  
When the trumpet of God shall sound  
We shall rise hallelujah we shall rise  
Then the saints shall come rejoicing  
And no tears will e’er be found  
We shall rise hallelujah we shall rise

We shall rise (hallelujah) we shall rise (amen)  
We shall rise (hallelujah) in that resurrection morning  
When these prison bars are broken  
We shall rise hallelujah we shall rise!”

Of course, those who are still living will be immediately transformed and they will escape the undertaker and death. This is what is going to happen at the Rapture of the church (1 Thess. 4:13-18). Someday we are all going to get a new body. When this happens death will be swallowed up in victory! For those saints who have died, death will NOT KEEP their bodies in the grave. They will be raised from the dead (“the dead shall be raised incorruptible”). For the living saints at Christ’s return, death will NOT TAKE their bodies. We will be raptured (“we shall be changed”). Yes, death will be swallowed up in victory! In every way death will be swallowed up in victory, for both the living saints and those who have died. The bodies of



resurrected saints will come out of the realm of death and the raptured saints who are alive at Christ's coming will escape death. In every way, physical death will be swallowed up in victory, since His beloved saints who have previously died will be resurrected and the bodies of living saints will be instantaneously transformed. And all of this will occur in the twinkling of an eye. Yes, it could happen in a moment!

“It could happen in a moment, In the twinkling of an eye,  
It could happen in a moment, He could break the Eastern sky,  
Tho our hearts will feel unworthy, yet how happy we will be  
When the Savior comes from heaven, When His blessed face we see.

I am list'ning ev'ry moment for the mighty trumpet sound,  
What a time we'll have together when the saints shall leave the ground.  
All our toiling will be over, all our sorrow and its pain,  
It could happen in a moment, Jesus Christ could come again!”

Dr. Harry Ironside frequently emphasized to his friends and relatives that he didn't want an elaborate funeral of an expensive tombstone when the Lord took him to Glory. He requested that his final resting place be marked only by a plain, wooden slab reading which said: Harry A. Ironside, Sinner Saved By Grace, Moved until Renovated and Repaired.

#### b. The shout of deliverance (vs. 55)

1 Corinthians 15:55

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave (hades), where is thy victory?”

Paul now reveals that the hope of physical death, as presented in verses 51-54, is based upon our victory over spiritual death. Death here is figured as a venomous serpent which is robbed of its poisonous fang. In this verse, both “death” and the “grave” (literally rendered “hades”) suggests that both these terms have reference to the realm of lost souls/spirits that Jesus came to save. The point in the context of the resurrection of the human body seems to be this. Jesus (through His death and resurrection – the Gospel) saves our souls from the realm of spiritual judgment in Hades (the place of departed souls) with the prospect and glorious promise of a bodily resurrection, where God's saints will live with Christ forever, possessing a resurrection body like His throughout eternity (Rom. 8:30). The one (eternal

and spiritual life of His saints) makes the other possible (physical resurrection of His saints).

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave (hades), where is thy victory?” This is a shout of triumph! It’s a shout of deliverance that relates to God’s people on their resurrection and transformation day. The dead in Christ (those who have previously died) will be bodily raised from the realm of physical death and those saints who are still alive at Christ’s coming will be not pass through physical death. Here is the point. Since Jesus died to take away sin’s judgment (penalty) and gave us eternal life (John 6:47), we can be absolutely sure that we will also one day receive a new body. Again, the one (our spiritual deliverance from hades) confirms the other (our physical deliverance via resurrected bodies). Both are linked together in the redemptive plan of God’s salvation and deliverance. Our spiritual deliverance from Hades also reassures us of our future physical deliverance. This is the time when Church Age saints will be glorified, pointing to when they will receive a magnificent, new body at the Rapture (Rom. 8:17-18; 1 Pet. 5:1).

Paul is teaching in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 that our spiritual deliverance from “hades” becomes the basis for our physical deliverance (a redemptive, glorified body). Instead of being part of the resurrection unto judgment we will share in the resurrection unto life and eternal bliss (John 5:29). This is because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and delivered us from spiritual judgment. Therefore, we can have the complete confidence that we will someday be raised with a physical body like Christ’s and be “glorified together” (Rom. 8:17). This is why Paul links the physical resurrection of God’s saints with their spiritual deliverance from the realm of Hades. Our spiritual deliverance guarantees our future physical deliverance, a resurrection unto life, blessing, and glory.

Jesus seems to teach this dual concept of both physical and spiritual deliverance of His saints in John 11:25-26: “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life (*Jesus has the power to raise His dead saints and return physical life to them*): he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live (*be made alive physically with a new body*): And whosoever liveth and believeth in me (*those who are still living physically and believe on Christ*) shall never die (*never die spiritually and be separated from God in hades*). Believest thou this?”

In other words, since Christ's paid the penalty for our sins and rose from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-3), we can be sure that we will escape God's wrath and someday be raised from the dead to experience joy and bliss in a new glorified body. Jesus links the physical with the spiritual in the sense that if we possess *spiritual* deliverance from the realm of Hades through His death and resurrection, then we can be sure of the *physical* deliverance that relates to receiving a new body someday, a body that will be like Christ's own resurrection body (1 John 3:2).

At the Rapture, all of God's resurrected and transformed living saints will shout these words of deliverance ("O death, where is thy sting? O grave {hades}, where is thy victory?"). This will occur when we receive our new bodies! The shout of victory over spiritual death and Hades by God's saints at the Rapture becomes the foundation or basis for their physical victory that they have experienced in their redemptive bodies. Their deliverance from Hades provides them with the hope of living with Jesus Christ in the heavenly city with new glorified bodies (John 14:1-3).

Without the saint's spiritual deliverance from Hades there would no hope of any physical deliverance of their bodies from the grave and living with Christ in Heaven. This is why the saints are shouting their victory over "death" and "hades" at the resurrection and transformation day of the Rapture. Jesus bore the wages of their sins and died in their place to rescue them from "hades" so that they might be resurrected to live with Him forever with a new, redemptive body in the place He has prepared for them. We have been given the promise of escaping God's wrath and therefore have the blessed hope of possessing a newly, glorified body and entering into our glorious, future inheritance that was promised to us (1 Pet. 1:3-5). Instead of being raised to be judged in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:12-15), we will be raised to enjoy the Eternal State with Jesus Christ in a new body (Rev. 21-22). What a day of rejoicing it will be on this resurrection day and meeting in the air.

"Praise the Lord I've been invited  
To a meeting in the air  
Jubilee, Jubilee.  
All the saints of all the ages  
In their glory will be there  
Oh I'm going to that happy Jubilee!  
Jubilee! Jubilee!  
Oh, I am going to that happy Jubilee!

Jubilee! Jubilee!  
Oh, I'm going to that happy Jubilee!"

Yes, this will be a day of great joy and jubilee! We will NOT experience the sting of death, which is God's wrath and judgment in Hades, with the horrible prospect of a "resurrection unto damnation" (John 5:29). Instead, we will have the glorious hope of receiving a new body that will live forever with God in Heaven ("a resurrection unto life" – John 5:29) based upon Christ paying the penalty for our sins and rising from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-3). The Gospel not only gives us the assurance of eternal, spiritual life (2 Tim. 1:10) but also the blessed hope of a physical resurrection or instant transformation that will result in His saints possessing a new body that is painless, sinless, timeless, and tearless!

Henry Vaughan wrote:  
"Death and darkness, get you packing,  
Nothing now to man is lacking,  
All your triumphs now are ended,  
And what Adam marred, is mended."

#### c. The source of victory (vv. 56-57)

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

"The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Continuing his line of thought, Paul is undoubtedly talking about victory over the realm of spiritual death (our banishment and judgment in Hell) as being the basis or foundation for our victory over the realm of physical death (our bodily resurrection, transformation, and glorification with Christ in Heaven). Death without Christ has a sting attached to it. The Law condemns us in our sin and makes sure that we are going to hell forever (Rom. 3:19-20; Gal. 2:16). But thanks be to God that His Son, Jesus Christ, fulfilled the penalty of the Law (Gal. 3:10, 13), when He suffered, bled, and died on the cross. On the cross, Jesus paid sin's penalty to provide us with perfect justification, a legal declaration of righteousness in God's presence (Rom. 5:9). But Jesus Christ also rose from the dead confirming our justification (our legal righteousness) before God (Rom. 3:24; 4:25). This means we can have the sting of death (God's judgment) forever removed.

For this reason, we will someday live together with Christ in the place He has prepared for us (John 14:1-3) in a resurrected body just like His.

In this resurrection chapter, Paul seems to be stressing that because Christ died and rose again, we can be absolutely certain that the sting of God's wrath and judgment (spiritual death or separation from God) is removed from our lives. However, we can also be reassured that through Christ's saving work, which includes His bodily and physical resurrection from the dead, that our own bodies will also one day be delivered from the physical realm of pain, suffering, and death. In other words, you cannot possess spiritual deliverance today without one day also experiencing physical deliverance, which will occur at the Rapture of the Church and be the culmination of our salvation (1 Cor. 15:51-52). The Gospel promises spiritual deliverance right now through the free gift of eternal life (1 Cor. 15:55-57; Rom. 6:23) but the good news of the Gospel, which includes Christ's resurrection from the realm of death, also gives the future promise of deliverance from all the physical effects of sin (1 Cor. 15:22; 51-54; John 11:25; 14:19).

Poor health and death is one of the effects of sin that has not yet been removed from the Christian. This means that we have not yet entered into the ultimate physical benefits of the Gospel for us or the future aspect of our salvation provided through the Gospel. We must continue to struggle with some of the consequences of the Fall until we see the Lord. We have already been saved from the penalty of sin through the Gospel (Acts 16:31) but we have not yet been delivered from the physical aspect of sin through the Gospel (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18). This will come later.

The context of Isaiah 53 as well as the past tense "were healed" in 1 Peter 2:24 implies spiritual healing from the effects of sin rather than healing from present physical afflictions of life. However, the Gospel, particularly the resurrection of Christ from the dead, gives us the assurance that we will receive a new body and be completely rid of all sin and sickness. This is called the "redemption of the body" (Rom. 8:23). Christ died and rose again to also provide for us a perfect and sinless body without pain, sickness, and suffering. This is the future aspect of our salvation. This is why Paul wrote, "now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Rom. 13:10) and why Peter wrote about "the salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:5). The Gospel saves us today from God's wrath and will in the future deliver us from the full effects of sin that has been experienced in our

bodies. This will occur through the resurrection of the dead saints and transformation of the living saints.

Philippians 3:20-21 envisions this time:

“For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

No wonder Paul said in Titus 2:13-14:

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Every spring we get those big black bumble bees (wood bees) that buzz around our heads. I hit them with tennis rackets to get rid of them for the season. That stops them from stinging the family and grandchildren. In this verse, Paul implies that Jesus took the sting out of death for each one of us. This is because death left its sting in Christ, as a bee leaves its stinger in its victim. Christ bore the sting of death for us (1 Pet. 2:24) so that we might never bare any of it. Jesus died on the cross to take the sting of death away from us (our judgment in Hell). At the same time, the Gospel also reassures us that someday we will also be raised from the dead and live eternally with Jesus Christ in Heaven, possessing a perfect and eternal body like His.

2 Timothy 1:9-10 triumphantly declares:

“Who hath saved us (*spiritual deliverance from God’s wrath and judgment*), and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (*the past purpose of God*), But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ (*the present revelation of Christ’s person and work*), who hath abolished death (*the realm of spiritual death*), and hath brought life and immortality (*spiritual and eternal life*) to light through the gospel.”

In summary, Jesus was stung to death on our behalf and rose again, so we can have everlasting spiritual life, but also that we might live with Him forever within the heavenly city, while possessing a new and glorified body. This means that when we die, we don’t go to Hell. Instead, we go to Heaven. However, the promise of the spiritual deliverance from Hell and

eternal life with God in Heaven reassures each one of us that we will also experience a physical deliverance someday. In short, we will be raised with a new body that will also live with God forever in Heaven (John 11:25-26). The victory over spiritual death presumes that we will also have victory over physical death someday and this will occur at the Rapture. Again, the shout of victory over “hades” at the time of the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:55) means that the saints will know that Christ has saved them from judgment (Hades) so that they might live with Christ in Heaven with a new, glorified body, as He promised (John 14:1-3).

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” As I reflect on my spiritual and physical blessings that I have through the Lord Jesus Christ, my heart is touched with overwhelming thanksgiving and humble gratitude. Someone wrote:

“How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?  
Things so underserved, yet You give to prove your love for me.  
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.  
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.”

In the midst of a storm, a little bird was clinging to the limb of a tree, seemingly calm and unafraid. As the wind tore at the limbs of the tree, the bird continued to look the storm in the face, as if to say, “Shake me off; I still have wings.” Because of Christ's death and resurrection, each Christian can look the experience of death in the face and confidently say, “Shake me off; I still have wings. I'll live anyway!”

How very true! At the moment of death, the spirit leaves the body and lives on with Christ in Heaven (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21, 23). But at a later time, our human body will be resurrected to live forever with Christ (1 Cor. 15:53). In every way, we are victors over death and the grave because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If Christ had not risen from the dead, we would have no hope and assurance of possessing a resurrected body. However, since Jesus rose from the dead, we have the wonderful promise and hope of receiving a resurrected, glorified, new body. It will be a timeless, tearless, sinless, and painless body!

Again, Jesus said in John 14:19, “Because I live (rose again from the dead) ye shall live also!” You can take this to the bank! It’s a done deal! We will get a new body based upon the Gospel of Christ’s death and resurrection from the grave. Jesus is going to return and bring about this great resurrection and transformation of living saints. Perhaps today! My son-in-law wrote a song that speaks of the blessed hope of the Rapture and what we have to look forward to as God’s saints. It will be a day of rapture, resurrection, renewal, and rejoicing! Here’s the chorus to the song.

“Perhaps Today, Christ will come,  
To rapture up the believing ones.  
In a moment we could see Him and leave this worldly ground,  
Perhaps today, we will hear the trumpet sound!”

## 2. We would not have a credible message (vs. 15:14a).

1 Corinthians 15:14 goes on to say:  
“And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain.”

I’ve heard a lot of vain (empty and useless) preaching in my day but if Jesus Christ is not alive then all of preaching is vain. It’s nothing but soap bubbles!

While vacationing in Florida, we took a boat tour in the Orlando area. There was a bunch of lakes connected together with canals. Along the shore there were homes that were build many years ago while others were being built. They were homes of wealthy people. It was a beautiful day and a very enjoyable boat ride.

Trying to preach the Gospel without the message of the resurrection is like trying to sell seats on a boat that is sinking. No resurrection would make preaching the Gospel meaningless. Without the resurrection our Gospel preaching and message is vain, empty, and worthless. The Gospel without the resurrection is like a shell without a kernel. This is because the resurrection is the cornerstone of the Gospel. The Gospel lives or dies on the basis of Christ’s resurrection.

We have a lot of vain preaching going on in our own day. There is the liberal gang of preachers who still don’t believe in the literal, bodily



resurrection of Christ from the dead. We can conclude that their preaching is empty! Their words are empty, they are full of hot air, and they are imposters of Christians and Christianity. One of the newer theories that rejects the resurrection of Christ is called the telepathic or telegram theory. It says there was no physical resurrection, but God sent back a mental image to the disciples so they would think Jesus rose in the flesh. God sent back a telepathic message to their brains and made them think Jesus rose physically from the grave, but He really did not rise from the dead. Listen folks, if Christ did not rise from the dead – literally, bodily, and victoriously, then we have no Gospel message and all of our talking and witnessing about Jesus is meaningless.

Apart from the resurrection Jesus could not have conquered sin, death, or hell, and these three great evils would forever conquer mankind. Without the resurrection the Gospel would be an empty, hopeless message of meaningless nonsense. Without the resurrection the GOOD news would actually be BAD news and there would be nothing worth preaching! If Jesus did not rise from the dead then our preaching doesn't mean a hill of beans, we are all playing church, and we are living in a fool's paradise.

If Christ had not risen from the dead our message would not be credible. It could not be trusted. Our message would be meaningless and mindless. It would be worthless. But since Jesus rose from the dead, we have a Gospel message of confidence, credibility, and certainty. It provides hope to the spiritually weary person who needs Christ.

At our Ephrata Fair ministry, we always see helium balloons that children lose which make their way into the sky. The resurrection is comparable to the helium inside the balloon. If you take away the helium, the balloon deflates and is worth nothing. In a similar way, if you take away the resurrection of Christ, which is the guarantee of our salvation and justification before God (Rom. 4:25), then the Gospel message deflates, and you have nothing. The message of the Gospel would be flat, purposeless, and unattractive in every way. It would not be credible. In other words, we have nothing to offer someone if Christ has not risen from the dead. Our message lacks hope, help, and healing for the soul, if Christ has not triumphantly come forth from the grave. It would be like saying, "No, Christ did not rise from the dead. So, we can never claim the promise that we are delivered from death, hell and the grave. We can only cross our fingers and hope for the best."

But thank God Jesus did rise from the dead because Jesus did something incredible. He rose from the dead. For this reason, our message is credible. Do you realize that only Christianity has a Leader who has risen from the dead! This is what makes the Gospel and Christianity credible.

### 3. We would not have a genuine faith (vv. 14b, 17a).

Four hundred years before the birth of Christ, Socrates, the renowned Greek Philosopher, drank the poison hemlock and lay down to die. "Shall we live again?" his friends asked. The dying philosopher could only reply, "I hope so, but no man can know." This is not true for the believer who believes that Jesus Christ rose from the dead to give him eternal life! We can know we will live forever because Jesus Christ is alive.

In this passage Paul speaks twice about a vain or empty and meaningless faith ("your faith is also vain" - vs. 14b). In verse fourteen Paul is assigning vanity or emptiness to listening to preaching and preachers that do not believe in the resurrection of Christ. He then goes on to say that if you listen to vain preaching which rejects the resurrection of Christ, then you will also possess a vain faith.

I have no time for any preacher who mocks and disbelieves in the resurrection of Christ. Why put faith in the message of any preacher who does not believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ? We should "withdraw" ourselves from those (1 Tim. 6:5) who are tooting the horn of unbelief. You might as well drop your church membership. It's no good if Jesus has not risen from the dead. There is no reason to go to church or to hear a sermon from any preacher, if Christ is not raised from the dead!

A disbelief in the resurrection would make preaching Christ meaningless. It would also make faith in Christ worthless. Paul repeats this same message ("And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain" – vs. 17). Our faith in Christ and a Gospel without the resurrection would be a faith that is empty, worthless, meaningless, void of effect and of any purpose. A dead Christ cannot give the promise of eternal life or the promise of bodily resurrection. Jesus must rise from the dead to open up the realm of death and give to us the hope and promise of eternal life with Him in Heaven (Rev. 1:18). Therefore, to place our faith in a dead Christ is not faith at all. It's not faith – it's fanaticism.

Faith in a dead Christ is a mindless and meaningless faith that has no substance or support. Think of this. If there was no resurrection, the faith chapter of Hebrews 11 (those who possessed great faith – “Hebrew’s Hall of Fame of Faith”) would instead be the hall of the foolish. If Jesus Christ is still dead and in the grave then all believers of all ages would have believed for nothing, lived for nothing, and died for nothing. Their faith would have no basis. This is how important the resurrection is to the Christian faith. We must remember that faith is only as good as its object (Acts 20:21; Gal. 3:26; 1 Tim. 3:13). Our faith must also be rooted in the resurrection of Christ so we can be saved from death, hell, and the grave.

Romans 10:9-10

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus (Jesus as Lord – God), and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness (receiving God’s imputed righteousness); and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (the acknowledgment that Jesus as God rose from the dead).

A small boy in England was asked by a scientific team to be lowered down the side of a cliff, to receive some important specimens. Although the scientists offered to pay the boy greatly, the boy said, NO!” They tried to convince and persuade the little fellow until he finally consented. But there was one condition that the boy made. He requested that his own father would be the one to hold the rope by which he was lowered. Now friend, this is true faith. The little boy had faith in the right person. And the same is true about faith in Christ. We must place our faith in a crucified and risen Christ! His death and resurrection on our behalf gives us a true, living, and confident faith.

You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart! But if Christ would be dead, then our faith would be dead! It would be empty, useless, and meaningless. This is because a dead Christ on the cross or in the tomb cannot save us! Remember, Christ had to rise again in order to guarantee our salvation before the Father’s presence (Heb. 7:25). If we place our faith in a dead Christ, who cannot save us, and give us acceptance before the father, then our faith becomes meaningless and futile - empty. There is no substance to it. There is no reality to it. This kind of faith would be no different than people placing their faith in a dead Buddha or a dead Allah to

save them. The resurrection of Christ makes our faith real, genuine, and full of hope! I have faith in a living Savior – not a dead one!

If Christ had not risen from the dead, our faith would have no substance, validity, and it would be meaningless. A faith in a dead Christ is a dead faith. It has no meaning or significance. It is absolute worthless. But since Jesus did rise from the dead our faith is real, substantial, and full of vibrancy and life.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, it is Sir Lionel Luckhoo, the winningness lawyer in the world with 245 straight murder acquittals. You would think that a lawyer with his track record would possess superior investigative skills. Applying those skills to researching the authenticity of the resurrections, he wrote, "I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt."

This brings us to our next sad result if Christ had not risen from the dead.

#### 4. We would not have a true testimony (vv. 15-16).

1 Corinthians 15:15-16

"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. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised."

If I say that Jesus rose from the dead, when in actuality, He did not rise from the dead, then we are all liars. Our testimony or witness would be false. It would not stand in the court of law. This is what Paul is saying. He is including himself and the other apostles ("we") as liars. Of course, ultimately all Christians would be liars if we say Christ rose from the dead when in reality He did not rise from the dead. If Christ was still dead and we were telling others that He is alive, then we would in the court of law be found as a liar. We would be a "false witness" of what God never did. We would be telling people that God did something that He did not do. This means that our testimony regarding Christ's resurrection would be a facade and our own personal witnessing would be false, fruitless, and futile.

Contemplate this for a moment. If the apostles and early Christians lied about the resurrection of Christ then why were they maligned, beaten,

imprisoned, and often martyred for believing and teaching a lie? Of course, dying for a lie is not what charlatans do. The early Christians did not die to preserve a lie. The record is very clear. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was verified by “many infallible proofs” or witnesses (Acts 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:5-8) and this is why the early church believed, proclaimed, and died for the message of Christ and the Gospel.

Acts 1:3

“To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”

If Christ had not risen from the dead, our testimony regarding the Gospel and Christ’s resurrection would be an outright lie. Our witness would be false and every Christian would be living in a fool’s paradise. But since Jesus did rise from the dead our witness is credible, powerful, and able to save souls.

A little girl was asked by a skeptic, “Which Jesus do you believe in?” The little girl without hesitation replied, “The One who rose from the dead!” Do you realize that there is no other religion or cult whose leader or deity makes the claim to have risen from the dead? Only Christianity has a leader and Savior who has risen from the dead. Buddha is dead. Confucius is dead. Allah is dead! Mohammed is dead. Joseph Smith and Brigham Young are dead. Charles Russell is dead. Hare Krishna is dead. Jim Jones is dead. Pope John Paul is dead. They are all dead except Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ is either a liar, lunatic, or Lord of all! By virtue of His resurrection from the dead, He has proven that He is Lord.

“He Is Lord; He Is Lord  
He Has Risen From The Dead  
And He Is Lord,  
Every Knee Shall Bow,  
Every Tongue Confess  
That Jesus Christ Is Lord.”

Romans 14:9

“For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.”

Here is the bottom line. If Christ did not rise from the dead, then all witnessing Christians would be liars and the Gospel and Christianity would be nothing but a pack of lies and a hoax. Don't tell me the resurrection doesn't matter! It does matter!

“Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!”

Someone has said:

“The best news the world has ever had – came from a graveyard.”

#### 5. We would not have forgiveness (vs. 17b).

1 Corinthians 15:17 goes on to say:

“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”

This is the worst news any person could ever hear! To think that God had forgiven all of our sins only to find out that He did not! This would be another spiritual and theological disaster if Christ had not risen from the dead! You see, to reject the resurrection is to reject the value of Christ's finished work! A dead Christ cannot deliver people from the awful plight of their sins! Jesus Christ needs to be alive, so He can represent us before the Father in Heaven (Rom. 8:33-34) and grant us eternal forgiveness before the presence of the father. There could be no forgiveness and acceptance before the father without the risen ministry of the Lord!

The resurrection is a key link in God's saving program. Paul says that “ye are yet in your sins” if Christ had not risen from the dead. Christians would still be in their sins just as much as the most wicked and unbelieving pagans in this world. We would all be in the same predicament as all unbelievers. Jesus said that every unsaved person “shall die in your sins” (John 8:21). This means that all people would have to die under sin's penalty, face the charges of their sins in the afterlife, and suffer the righteous judgment of God in an eternal hell for the sins they have committed against God.

The Bible teaches that the purpose of expressing faith in Christ's death and resurrection is so we might receive the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 5:30-31 links the resurrection of Christ with forgiveness of sins:

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."

This means that the forgiveness of sins is in some way tied to the resurrection of Christ. Without Christ's resurrection we would have no Savior, no acquittal or pardon before God. We would still be in our sins, lost and headed toward Judgment Day. Christ's resurrection guarantees our forgiveness before God.

Romans 8:34 asks:

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

If Christ had not risen from the dead, then our sins would still be counted against us. We would still be dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1-2) and one-day face God's judgment for our sins. But since Christ did rise from the dead, we can have the absolute certainty that our sins are forgiven, our legal record in Heaven is clean, and that we possess a righteous standing before God.

I thank the Lord that He is alive today and grants me forgiveness on the basis of His completed work. There is a living Savior in Heaven today who represents us by presenting the value of His sacrificial work on our behalf and therefore grants us total forgiveness before the Father.

Micah 7:19 expressed forgiveness in this way: "Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

"You ask me why I'm happy, so I'll just tell you why,  
Because my sins are gone;  
And when I meet the scoffers who ask me where they are,  
I say, "My sins are gone."

They're underneath the blood on the cross of Calvary,  
As far removed as darkness is from dawn;  
In the sea of God's forgetfulness, that's good enough for me,  
Praise God, my sins are gone!"

Could anything be more wonderful than this! I was looking at a tombstone one day. And on the tombstone was only one word – FORGIVEN! Friend, are your sins forgiven? Have you expressed faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ to grant you eternal forgiveness before God?

#### 6. We would not have salvation from hell (vs. 18).

1 Corinthians 15:18 also reveals:

"Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."

Paul comes to another sad conclusion if Jesus did not rise from the dead. Here is the long and short of what Paul is teaching. If Christ had not risen from the dead, then those Christians who have already died would be burning in hell right now. We could not possess salvation or deliverance from God's wrath and judgment in the next life. The word "sleep" is a metaphor that refers to death for the believer in Christ (1 Cor. 15:51). The word "perished" indicates the judgment of God in the afterlife. The word actually speaks of ruin or loss. The word does not point to a person's loss of existence (annihilation) but to their loss of well-being. When a person dies without salvation, they "perish" or experience spiritual ruin in hell. This means they miss out on God's intended purpose or design for their lives, which is to live forever with Him in Heaven. When unsaved people "perish" it means that they die and their soul and spirit is spiritually lost in the judgment of hell.

Jesus said in Luke 13:3:

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

There is no sense beating around the bush. If you die without Christ, as your Savior, you will go straight to hell when you die. Think of it this way, if Christ has not risen from the dead, it would mean that all our saved loved ones, who have died, whom we thought were with the Lord, are actually in hell today. It would mean that our deceased husband, wife, grandma, and grandpa, who were saved in this life, were not really saved, and they are in Hell right now suffering God's vengeance and judgment. It would mean that



Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Noah, D.L. Moody, Billy Sunday, Martin Luther, John Wesley, John Huss, R. A. Torrey, Matthew Henry, Fanny Crosby, and Bob Jones Sr. are in Hell. William Carey would be in hell. Harry Ironside would be in Hell. Abraham Lincoln would be in hell today. All the missionaries and preachers and believers of past ages, who are now dead, would be perishing and suffering in hell's horror, hell's fire, and hell's torment.

If Christ did not rise from the dead, then nobody would be saved from hell. Everybody would be going to hell. But praise God this is not true! Since Jesus rose from the dead, we have the assurance of salvation and eternal life. Saved people (God's people) do not perish in the judgment of hell because Jesus is alive forevermore!

Jesus said in John 11:25-26:

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

Thank the Lord that when we bid farewell to our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and all those of like precious faith, that we know for certain that we will see them again in Heaven. They will not face damnation and be gone forever from our presence. We will see them again someday all because Jesus lives and has given them eternal life. There is hope beyond this life because Jesus lives! This is because the resurrection of Christ guarantees our eternal salvation and acceptance before the Father.

## 7. We would not have any hope.

1 Corinthians 15:19

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Remember that Paul said this in the context of the resurrection of Christ. He concludes that if Christ did not rise from the dead, then we would only have hope in this life. This is another sad result if Christ was not raised from the dead. I have attended unsaved funerals where there was no hope. The family and friends seemed totally distressed and filled with hopelessness as they passed through the funeral. Many people today have no hope of seeing their loved ones again, and if they do have hope, it's a

false hope and deception. One man told me that his friend had gone into the happy hunting ground and that one day he would hunt with him again. A widowed wife told her children that their daddy has gone to Heaven and has become an angel. This is deception that comes from the devil. It's a false hope. You see, without the resurrection of Christ from the dead, we have no real hope!

This is the final sad thing that would occur if Christ had not risen from the dead. The Bible says that if we only possess hope in this life, regarding our salvation and eternal destiny because Christ died not rise from the dead, then we would really have no true and lasting hope. We would only have a temporary hope that would not pan out in the future. And if this is the case, we should be people who are "miserable" (pitiable), or someone who should be given pity and sympathy, since the Christian life would be a mockery, a charade, a tragic joke!

The point is this, if Christ did not rise from the dead, we are to be looked upon with pity. This is because we have built our entire life on the premise of a false hope instead of true and eternal hope. If we have confidence or trust that Christ has saved us "in this life only" (vs. 19), but have no hope of salvation in the afterlife, then we are to be counted as someone who should be shown great sympathy.

What does hope in this life really matter, if in the end we die and go to hell in the next life? Why should we even become a Christian if we only have salvation and hope in this life? If we are all going to die and go to hell, then our hope in this life is a false hope and nothing really matters. In fact, if we had hope in this life, but not the next, we should be looked upon as "pitiful" fools. We should be objects of pity and sympathy if we only had hope in this life but not in the next life. And you wonder if the resurrection of Christ really matters? Oh yes, it matters! Everything stands or falls on the resurrection of Christ.

Now friend, you don't have to pity Christians. Do you know why? It's because Jesus is alive forevermore.

1 Corinthians 15:20

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."

Christians do not have to be pitied, since Jesus has risen from the dead and promises eternal life to them and also a magnificent new body that they will enjoy forever. Christians possess a dynamic reassuring hope for the future.

1 Peter 1:3 reminds us about this future hope:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

If Christ did not rise from the dead, then we would have absolutely no hope. The situation would be grim. We would not have a future inheritance since Peter basis our future inheritance upon the resurrection of Christ. We would have nothing to look forward to if Christ did not rise from the dead. This is because a dead Christ cannot save us, give us eternal life, and provide us with a resurrection body. But since Jesus did rise from the dead, we can possess a confident hope, the absolute assurance that Christ’s bodily resurrection from the dead guarantees us salvation from hell, eternal life, and a glorified body someday.

Today life is worth the living, just because He lives! Jesus is the risen and ascended Lord, at the Father’s right hand (Heb. 1:3), interceding for me (Heb. 7:25) and promising eternal acceptance before the Father! Jesus is alive and for this reason we can possess hope in our hearts and lives every day. This is because we share His resurrected life (“Christ liveth in me” - Gal. 2:20) and can therefore experience the hope that His risen presence and resurrection brings into our hearts every day.

“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!”

Little Philip, born with Down's syndrome, attended a third-grade Sunday School class with several eight-year-old boys and girls. Typical of that age, the children did not readily accept Philip with his differences, according to an article in leadership magazine. But because of a creative teacher, they began to care about Philip and accept him as part of the group, though not fully.

The Sunday after Easter the teacher brought plastic egg-shaped containers. Each receiving one, the children were told to go outside on that lovely spring day, find some symbol for new life, and put it in the plastic egg container. Back in the classroom, they would share their new-life symbols, opening the containers one by one in surprise fashion. After running about the church property in wild confusion, the students returned to the classroom and placed the containers on the table. Surrounded by the children, the teacher began to open them one by one.

After each one, whether a flower, butterfly, or leaf, the class would ooh and ahh. Then one was opened, revealing nothing inside. The children exclaimed, "That's stupid. That's not fair. Somebody didn't do their assignment." Philip spoke up, "That's mine." "Philip, you don't ever do things right!" the student retorted. "There's nothing there!" "I did so do it," Philip insisted. "I did do it. It's empty. It's empty because the tomb of Jesus was empty!" Silence followed. From then on Philip became a full member of the class.

But Philip died not long afterward from an infection most normal children would have shrugged off. At the funeral this class of eight-year-olds marched up to the altar not with flowers, but with their Sunday school teacher, and each to laid on the altar an empty plastic egg in remembrance of the lesson Philip had taught them.

Of course, Easter is not about eggs! Easter is about an empty tomb! He is not here – He has risen as He said! Jesus Christ is Lord (God) for He rose from the dead. Is He your Savior today? Have you ever expressed faith in His death and resurrection to grant you forgiveness and eternal life in Heaven? If you place your faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you can be saved from hell today.

Acts 16:31

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”

Belief involves placing all of your faith, trust, and confidence in Jesus Christ to save you. It's a personal decision that a person must make to commit their faith alone in Jesus Christ alone (His death and resurrection) to grant them salvation from hell, forgiveness, and eternal life.

Below is a pray of faith that many help you express your own personal faith in Jesus Christ. If you sense your need to be saved and forgiven, then express your faith in Christ right now.

“Dear Jesus, right now I am expressing my personal faith in Your death, burial, and resurrection to save me from Hell, provide forgiveness for my sins, and give me eternal life. I will only trust in Christ and Him alone from this day forward to be my Savior. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”