

## Sunday Afternoon Devotional - The Resurrection

He is risen!!!! He is risen indeed! Easter Sunday reminds us that Jesus rose from the grave. Death could not hold him. Satan could not conquer him. When Jesus walked out of the tomb it meant everything he said about himself was true. He is the Son of God. He has power to forgive sins. The payment he made on the cross was accepted. For this devotional we want to look at the importance of the resurrection for the Christian faith.

Read the following passages together:

1 Corinthians 15:12-26 - **12** Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. **15** We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. **20** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **23** But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. **24** Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 - **50** I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold! I tell 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 trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. **54** 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." **55** "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** 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.

(Questions on reverse side)

Questions:

1. 1 Corinthians 15 is Paul's big defence of the importance and credibility of the resurrection of Jesus. Why does Paul say the resurrection is of utmost importance? (look at verses 13, 14, 17, 19)
2. Paul says in verse 20: "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead..." Why do you think Paul was so sure of this? Read 1 Corinthians 15:4-8 for Paul's reasoning on why the resurrection actually happened.
3. The resurrection of Jesus means that one day we will all be resurrected as well. Eternal life is a physical, flesh and blood life, with us having perfected bodies. How does this change our view of life here on earth? How does this change our view of death?
4. As Christians we have no need to fear death (verses 54-57). Do you live like this?
5. Paul ends his whole chapter on the resurrection with verse 58 - be steadfast, immovable, abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing it's not in vain. How does the resurrection of Jesus help us live like this? Do you feel steadfast, immovable, abounding in God's work? Why or why not?

*Spend some time praying together. Praise God that he raised Jesus from the dead! Thank Jesus for his work on the cross and his resurrection. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Ask God to help make you immovable, steadfast in the faith, and abounding in His work.*