

Rev. Richard Schwartz  
Why Did Jesus Come To Rise From The Dead? New Life In Christ  
1 Corinthians 15:12-19 and Ephesians 2:1-6 and Romans 6:1-11

1. There will be some people who believe that they are Christians who, when they meet Jesus, will not finally be saved. Jesus will tell them that He never knew them because their hearts have not changed. While they believe their sins are forgiven, Jesus will reject them because their lives are filled with lawlessness and sin. Their final fate will be eternal Hell.
2. If Jesus Christ has not been raised from the dead, then the whole Christian life is in vain. Without the power of the resurrection, not only is the Christian life meaningless, but our faith is meaningless.
3. If we fail to testify to the truth of the resurrection of Jesus, we misrepresent God. Part of affirming that Jesus has been resurrected is fully understanding that Jesus has been raised and that, in the future, all those who trust in Him will also be raised. But is there a present reality for those who trust in the resurrection?
4. Without the resurrection of Jesus, Paul says that our faith is futile. It is meaningless and worthless. But he says something else. If we are not trusting in the resurrection, we are still in our sins. Those who have fallen asleep, or died, while claiming to believe in the forgiveness of the Cross of Christ, but have not trusted in the resurrection, have perished. This is a physical death but also an eternal one. Their fate is Hell.
5. A false hope that rejects the power of Jesus' resurrection is not only futile or meaningless, but it also makes those who profess faith in Christ people who are worthy of great pity. A life that is dedicated to a cause that ends in eternal suffering in Hell is, as Paul says, wasted.
6. Before we trust in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins. We follow Satan, the prince of the power of the air, and we live in total disobedience to God. Before salvation, we are children of wrath, meaning that we are headed for the wrath of God in Hell. Without the power of the resurrection of Jesus, all people will die in their sins.
7. But God has had mercy on the true Christian, the one who has known God's love in Jesus Christ. Even while we were spiritually dead, He has made us alive. How did He make us alive? Together with Christ. The grace of God has saved us by raising our dead hearts from the dead when we are united to Christ in His resurrection. We need to have faith, or trust, in the power of the resurrection, or we will remain spiritually dead and children of God's wrath, facing Hell.
8. Without the power of the resurrection to bring new life, those who say they are Christians will hear from Jesus that He never knew them. While we will not be perfect in this life, everything will be different because of the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
9. Even if we could be united with Christ in His death without the resurrection, it is the resurrection that gives us the power to live a new life. If we truly trust His Cross, we will also be trusting in Jesus' resurrection. If the power of the resurrection has not changed our entire lives, then we have not truly known this power and we are not truly a Christian.
10. When we are united with Christ in His death, we are set free from our slavery to sin, but we also need the power to live with Jesus Christ, which comes from being united with Him in His resurrection.
11. Why did Jesus come to rise from the dead? So that we could have new life in Him. This new life is not simply a change in how God sees us, like the imputed righteousness of Christ, but is an imparted righteousness that actually changes everything in our lives, making us more and more like Christ every day. This shows itself in real obedience to Jesus' Word in the Bible, which grows stronger the longer we live for Him.

### Application

1. If you are genuinely having faith in the resurrection of Jesus, expect your entire life, every single day, to be different from the time before you believed.
2. When you share your faith with others, tell them of more than simply the forgiveness in Jesus, but also the power of His resurrection, which gives the believer new life to live in obedience to Him.

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

### **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

### **Philippians 3:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

### **Ephesians 2:1-6**

<sup>2</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

### **Romans 6:1-11**

<sup>6</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being

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raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.