

A Tale of Two Resurrections: 1 Corinthians 15:1-10, 42-57(NLT)

Read Romans 10: 9-13

The message of salvation is a simple one, and I cannot think of better day than the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior, the foundation of our faith, to share the message of the Good News with you. What do we mean though when we refer to salvation, or to being saved? It means you have been rescued from the inevitable results of living in your sin. It means death is not permanent. It means, because of Jesus and His work on the cross of sacrifice, in the tomb of victory, and through the hope of a heavenly future, you do not have to go to hell. The verses I just read to you tell you what you must do to go to heaven. You must believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and because of that, He's going to one day raise you too. You must also confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. Now why is this important? Because when we confess something verbally, for everyone to hear, then we are committed to it. Jesus said it this way, *"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."* The Bible says that if you do those two things, you will be saved. But you must believe it. There is no level of work you can do to get into heaven because Jesus has already done it. He did it all. You want to talk about the meaning of Easter or the reason why Easter is so important, then the conversation must begin with **Jesus did it all!**

What did Jesus do, you ask? Well, for starters, He fulfilled His purpose. 1 John 4:10 gives us that purpose, and it's one of the most important verses in all of Scripture. **Read 1 John 4:10.** There's one on my favorite words again. What does it mean to be the propitiation for something? I want you to pay close attention to what this word means. In fact, it would be wise to store its meaning away in your memory because this word is only used when explaining Christianity. A propitiation is a sacrificial offering, or atonement for something (sin in our case), which appeases God and replaces His wrath with His favor. God's wrath is a righteous, in-control anger towards sin. Because of this, He wants His demands for justice to be met. Jesus fulfills that demand on our behalf! So, let me share 1 John 4:10 again, but I'm replacing "propitiation" with its meaningful intent. "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation (**sacrificial offering**) for our sins, (**which appeases the wrath of God and satisfies His demand for justice.**) The reason this word is important is because you cannot fully understand resurrection without also understanding the concept of propitiation. Let me show you what I mean.

If 1 John 4:10 is one of the most important verses in all of Scripture, then 1 Corinthians 15 is perhaps the most important chapter in all of Scripture. This chapter provides an amazingly simple depiction of the Gospel in verses 1-4. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NLT)**. This is the Gospel explained for us by Paul. Paul goes on to explain in verses 12-19 that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation for who we are. The resurrection is the number one evidentiary source for Christianity. You cannot be Christian if you do not believe that Jesus is ALIVE! It's just not possible! If the resurrection of Jesus didn't happen, as some people believe, then that means Christianity is not real. It means our faith in Jesus is useless. It means our sins haven't been forgiven as promised and that instead of an eternity glorified in heaven, all people who placed their faith in Christ have been fooled and are eternally separated from God. Well, I thank God for people like Paul because it's important to know that what you believe in is in fact very real. Paul explains this in 12-19. Then, the remaining verses in this chapter, speak of the Christian's hope for the future. What is that hope? It's the resurrection of the saints. Who are the saints? Of course, they're genuine believers. Those who have believed in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and confessed with their mouth that He is their Lord.

Let's look at this together. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NLT)** So, Paul in addressing the good people of Corinth set out to correct a subtle, but extremely dangerous false belief that many were buying into. Guess what? This false doctrine is still being taught today. Therefore, we too must stay firm in the foundational truth that Jesus was raised from the dead and HE is Alive! The resurrection of Jesus Christ is all the proof I need that all my sins have been forgiven and paid for. Look what Paul says to them next. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:20**. Paul makes a subtle statement in this verse concerning the resurrection of Jesus. Well, actually, he makes two especially important statements. First, he says "in fact". Paul wanted the church at Corinth to know without any doubt that the thing he was about to say concerning Jesus was indisputable. The following words were to be considered as true and should be used as evidence when faced with opposition. Then Paul says, Christ has been raised from the dead. (Fact) He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. (Fact) Jesus was the first person to be raised from death into immortal life. People such as Lazarus and Jairus' daughter had been raised from death before, but they remained mortal and would eventually have another physical death. It wasn't until Jesus was resurrected that they along with all other believers could have the same opportunity. **Read verses 21-23**. What a promise folks. When we belong to Jesus, we are promised to one day be raised from a true physical death into a new life. That's our hope! That's our longing! But without genuine belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you do not get to cash in on this promise.

If you are a Christian, I want you to see how Paul describes the fulfilment of this promise for you. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-57.** Listen, these words describe the future hope of Christianity. If you're here this morning, hopefully it's because you want to hear the truth. Hopefully, it's because you want to celebrate the hope found in the fulfilment of these promises. Hopefully, Christian, it's because you understand because He lives, we live also. Because He was resurrected; we also will be resurrected. And because He was raised with a physical immortal body, we too will be raised with a physical immortal body. But only for those who believe in their heart that the resurrection is true and then confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord!

This morning, I want to give you a couple of options. First, if you're here and you want to make the decision to accept Jesus, I'm simply asking you to come forward during our time of invitation. Meet me here, we'll pray together, and ask God, based on your faith in Jesus Christ to accept Him as your propitiation. Then, for those who believe, whether you've believed for some time, or if you've decided to get saved this morning, we are going to offer the opportunity to participate in the Lord's Supper. If you're a Christian here this morning, use the time of invitation to prepare your heart for this meal. Don't come to the table of the Lord if there are issues in your heart.

The Lord's Supper

I'm going to ask our Elders to come forward and assist with the distribution of our elements. Elders will pass out the bread and then the cups while **(Third Day – Communion Plays)**

1. **Breaking of bread** – Read 1 Cor. 11:23-24 and raise wafer
 - a. **This symbolizes the body of our Lord Jesus Christ that was broken and given for us. (People eat)**

2. **Raising of the cup** – Read 1 Cor. 11:24-25 and raise cup
 - a. **This symbolizes the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that was poured out for the forgiveness of our sins. (People drink)**
 - b. Close by reading verse 26

3. **Playing of Song – Song of Celebration and Thanksgiving**

Because He Lives – David Crowder