

## WHY THE RESURRECTION MATTERS

### 1 Corinthians 15

This past Easter Sunday was to state the obvious, quite different. Some things were downright inspiring, the FBC virtual church service streaming on YouTube, the wonderful presentation by Sight and Sound on TBN, “Jesus”, the open conversation on many of the news media about the resurrection of Christ, and the airing of nearly every classic movie about the life of Jesus.

But on Tuesday, April 14, reality returned. The local WalMart in Lebanon offers senior citizen only shopping each Tuesday between 6 AM and 7 AM, before everyone else shows up and cleans out the store shelves. Can you say CORONA? Countless items were already “marked down”, including candy eggs, chocolate bunnies, Easter lilies, etc. In 2019, Easter meant two things: A once a year appearance at church for many, and tons of things to buy at the store. In 2020, cross out the once a year appearance. But as a believer, why does the resurrection truly matter? Today’s study will center on that question.

### WHY DOES IT MATTER?

To fulfill the promise from man’s fall  
To show Jesus as the ultimate victor over death and sin.  
To give us as believers the ultimate hope of victory.

To fulfill the promise from man’s fall 1 Cor. 15: 20-22.

But first, let’s look at the verses between last week and verse 20, this week. see 1 Cor. 15: 12-13. Paul places the resurrection of Jesus and our hope of eternal victory in the same basket: you can’t have one without the other. see 1 Cor 15: 14-15. Paul then makes the case that the resurrection is basic to the message of the Gospel. If it’s not true, then we just need to shut up.  
see 1 Cor 15; 17-18. Without the resurrection, we have no basis for our faith, and no hope to see those saints who have went on before us. We are

to be pitied, as verse 18 ends.

now vs 20. the term “firstfruits” refers back to the Mosaic law, requiring our offerings to be the “firstfruits”. Jesus was not only the first, but the best.

vs 21-22

. “as in Adam all die”. recall what God said to Adam in Genesis 2: 16-17. But even in that time of defeat, God promised the ultimate victory. See Genesis 3: 15. The death, burial and yes, the resurrection of Jesus fulfilled that promise. “he will crush your head”. And the promise of life for all who are in Christ will be fulfilled at his return. recall 1 Thess. 4: 16-18.

To show Jesus as the ultimate victor over death and sin. 1 Cor. 15: 23-28 vs 23-24. These verses show us a look at history and prophecy until the end of time. Jesus rose from the dead, victorious over death and sin. But until He returns, we still have sin and death in the world. Can you say CORONA? Until He returns, many of our loved ones will die, but we have the promise to see them again. Then with the rapture (described in the verses we just read), both the dead and living saints will reign with Christ.

vs 25-26. the phrase “under his feet” refers back to Psalm 110: 1. This verse was quoted by Peter on the day of Pentecost. The final defeat of death is described in Revelation 20: 14, only made possible by the resurrection.

vs 28. This verse shows the role of the Trinity--Father, Son and Spirit: all separate, all God. Yet also Christ willingly placing himself under the subjection of God the Father, who gave him power to reign over all.

To give us as believers the ultimate hope of victory. 1 Cor. 15: 54-58 vs 54-56. Verse 54 talks about, as believers in the last days, we shall be changed. Talk about getting a new wardrobe!! verses 54 and 55 also reference two passages from the Old Testament. “Death has been swallowed up in victory”. see Isaiah 25: 8. “Where, death, is your victory? Where, death, is your sting?” see Hosea 13: 14.

vs 57. This verse gives credit to where credit is due--faith alone in Jesus alone.

vs 58. This verse is the “bottom line”. Because of the resurrection we can, and should be steadfast, immovable. WHY? Because it’s not wasted, it

is not in vain. Stay safe and well---Berl