

The Resurrection - Is it True? (1 Corinthians 15:1-9)

The most significant times during the year are Christmas and Easter. Christmas is the day when our savior Jesus was born and Easter is the day when Jesus arose after death on the Cross to redeem our sins. All religions teach that our spirit is immortal but only Christianity says we will be resurrected after death. Many people question whether resurrection of Jesus is true? No problem to go to heaven without resurrection? However, resurrection is true which happened two thousand years ago. Our faith would be meaningless or mere ceremony if there is no resurrection because it is the revelation of God.

1. The reason why people do not believe in resurrection. Fainted (stunned) and awake? Jesus was on the Cross six hours and after death Roman soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. No one survived from cross and should brought back on cross even if awake from faint. Disciples stole Jesus body and claim resurrection? **"When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money (Matthew 28:12)** Roman army was the strongest army in those times. How did disciples steal Jesus body who all denied him and ran away? (They all martyred because of testifying resurrection later) Who would take a life for fiction? Disciples proclaimed Gospel because they saw and experienced resurrected Jesus from death. In Book of Acts, Peter and John said that they could not help speaking about what they have seen and heard when they were seized and asked not speak about Jesus by high priest. Doubtful Thomas did not believed when other disciples have seen Jesus after resurrection until he see the nail marks in Jesus' hands and put his finger where the nails and into side. Jesus let him put his finger on hands and side and said **"Because you have seen me, you have believed: blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"** Alternative? Someone replaced Jesus. Empty tomb is the proof that Jesus risen and taken up to into heaven. Essence of Christianity is Gospel and its core is Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus resurrection is historical true and he prepare place for us in heaven and waits to come down **"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?"**

2. The Resurrection is the historical event. Jesus died on the Cross and Joseph from Arimathea took Jesus body placed it in his new tomb, resurrected. It is not debatable theological because there were several witness who saw and touched. Paul insisted strongly that resurrection is the core of Gospel and it is vain if we miss. Because of Greek culture, people in Corinthians' church regard resurrection as succession of Jesus' Spirit to them not as actual fact. However, Apostle Paul strongly argued **"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep(1 Corinthians 15:3-6)** The resurrection based on historical fact and it is meaningless to have resurrection faith if it did not happen. Paul emphasized twice "according to Scriptures" to explain resurrection of Christ because it proved all facts in the bible are true as well. Paul said he is witness too. **"Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (1 Corin 15:7-9)** James is the brother of Jesus who did not believe in Jesus but he changed after he saw resurrected Jesus. The resurrection shows that death is not end. We should believe verse to verse in the bible and live for eternal.

3. What if there is no Resurrection of Jesus?

All of us are sinner who cannot solve our own sins. Jesus has been judged on the Cross and went into tomb instead of us. Jesus cleared our sins and proved as resurrection. **"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied (1 Corinthians 15:19)** Jesus is risen after defeat death: Cleared all of our sins in God, we freed from chain of sin, curse, death and all oppressed. Born again in Jesus? Believe in resurrection? We are the most blessed if we say "Yes". When Apostle John was on the island of Patmos, he heard Jesus behind him **"I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades" (Revelation 1:18)** Jesus went to tomb to take the keys of death and Hades.

4. Greatness of the resurrection - Make us restart our life. Jesus forgives our sins and gives us life, it is His work to give us hope, and dream to us. We will have hope for resurrection when we accept Jesus as our Lord even in suffering and despair. No matter under what situation, we could have new life when we come to resurrected Jesus because He is the resurrection and life. **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)** Jesus destroyed force of death and gives us life of resurrection.

Resurrection of Jesus

Purpose (goal) in life. "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.(James 4:14) **"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring(Proverbs 27:1)** Life is like wayfarer who stays in tavern. We should not focus on where we stay for a while not forever. Our purpose would be proclaiming of Jesus "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Freed from fear of death We would not fear death when we have Faith in resurrection. Because death is not end but one of process of eternal life; a transferring stage and the change from worldly to eternal life.