



What Does the Resurrection Mean to Me, Personally?

A city slicker moved to the country. He met a country girl and he wanted to win her heart. He gave her a ring out of a Cracker Jack box that was studded with colored glass. They looked like red Rubies, blue Emeralds, and green Sapphire stones. He told her the big center diamond was real.

Of course she did not believe it. She rejected the diamond with these words, "Why would anyone set a real diamond among fake jewels?"

Good question!

Why do Christians, who are trying to win the heart of the world, set the diamond of the resurrection amidst a fake setting of Easter bunnies, Easter eggs, Easter hams, Easter lilies, and hot cross buns, then put it on a movable date determined by the moon, and then call the celebration after a pagan goddess of fertility and fornication? No wonder some find it hard to believe!!!

You know the True story.

Jesus was crucified.

The disciples were sad, but He arose.

The women were told by the angels, "Why seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen as He said."

The disciples did not believe.

He appeared unto Mary. She was told, "Why weep ye? Go tell My disciples." But the disciples did not believe.

Peter saw Him. Some did not believe.

He appeared unto the ten and commissioned them to wait in Jerusalem. **Luke 24**

Thomas was absent and he would not believe. Later, Jesus appeared to all the apostles, and Thomas believed. **John 20:22 ff**

Jesus appeared unto them again and rebuked them for their unbelief of not believing the women. He commissioned them again. **Mark 16**

He then appeared again in Galilee. Still some doubted. He commissioned them again. **Matthew 28**

Today, unbelief is still common.

The women saw an empty tomb and were spoken to by angels; but could not prove it.

Mary saw Him; but could not prove it.

Peter saw Him; but could not prove it.

The Apostles saw Him; but could not prove it.

The men on the road to Emmaus saw Him; but could not prove it.

500 brethren saw Him at once; but could not prove it.

Did it happen? I do not like the song, "You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart." That's subjective.

It boils down to these objective truths:

- ✦ The empty tomb.
- ✦ The grave clothes were empty.
- ✦ The testimony of witnesses who gave their lives as martyrs.
- ✦ The Church is here.
- ✦ The Word is a testimony.
- ✦ The conversion of Saul of Tarsus.

Spring only hints of it. (There is hope of a tree that when it dies, it shall live again. A seed must fall and die or it cannot bring forth fruit.) **Job 14:7, John 12:24**

Did it happen? Does it make any difference? Why must we have a resurrection? Can't we just have His good moral teaching and His great example? Why is all this dead, buried, and risen stuff necessary anyway?

Who needs an exemplary liar? Who needs a moral code from a deceiver? Who needs a teacher whose basic doctrine brings strife and arguments? Not me.

But what if He did arise? That changes things. I believe He did arise. So what does the resurrection mean to me personally?

× **It assures me that my convictions are true**, for He is risen as He said, and all He said will come to pass. It is pure silliness to believe in a God and not believe He could rise from the dead.

× **It means I am forgiven of my sins** and my conscience is right in being pure. "If He is not risen, I am yet in my sins." His resurrection proves the acceptance of His payment. "It is finished" means "paid in full"...and I have peace with God.

× **It confirms my confidence of my own resurrection from the dead.**

I Corinthians 15:23, "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

Romans 8:11, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

× **It gives me the hope of seeing my Christian family and friends again.**

I Corinthians 15:18 "Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." (If Christ is not raised.)

× **It confirms my life has meaning and purpose.**

I Corinthians 15:29-32, "29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? 30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? 31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, **what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.**"

× **It assures me that I am enabled with the power to live a victorious life.**

Ephesians 1:19-20, "19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,"

× **It assures me I can give what I want because my treasure is in Heaven.** Remember the Rich Young Ruler?

Mark 10:21, "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and **give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:** and come, take up the cross, and follow me."

× **It guarantees me my hospitality will be rewarded at the resurrection of the just.**

Luke 14:13-14, "13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for **thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.**"

× **It guarantees me an incorruptible inheritance.**

I Peter 1:3-4, "3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To **an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled**, and that **fadeth not away, reserved in heaven** for you,"

× **It is an assurance that my life creed is valid.** Life is stronger than death, Good is stronger than evil, Truth is greater than error, Love is stronger than hatred and God is mightier than Satan..... and that is good news.

× **It comforts me to know that what I did not have in material things, nor what I may gain in a physical world, does not matter in eternity** since I will wake in a spiritual world, and my physical body will be changed to a spiritual body. That makes things in life a lot less important to me now because I can live as a pilgrim or sojourner heading home. Who fights over a snowflake? This world's goods are "fool's gold".

× **It convinces me that all He said is true.** The resurrection of the just and the unjust. Some will rise to everlasting life, and some to damnation. The ungodly will be dealt with, but the meek will win and the pure in heart shall see God.

× **It means I've been commissioned to make disciples of all that I meet.** My task is before me. In each appearance He commissioned each who saw Him.

➤ Mary was to go tell.

➤ The women were to go tell.

➤ Peter was told to feed His sheep, His lambs.

➤ Disciples were to start in Jerusalem and go make disciples, teach, baptize, and teach to observe all things.

➤ Even Paul was a chosen vessel to men.

I, too, must tell it.

Conclusion

Whether Jesus arose makes all the difference to me.
Because He lives, I shall live.
I have **hope** when I am dying.
I have **confidence** when I stumble.
I have a **Savior** who forgives my sin.
I have a **Mediator** when I pray.
I have **peace** that passes understanding.
I have a **joy** unspeakable and full of glory.
I have **power** to live victoriously.
I have a **commission** to fulfill.
I have **assurance** of seeing my saved loved ones again.
I have a **faith** that is unshakable.
I have **hope** that all will be made right.
I have a **reason** to believe He will come again, just as He said.

If you do not believe He lives, you have no:

- ◆ Hope
- ◆ Confidence
- ◆ Savior
- ◆ Mediator
- ◆ Peace with God
- ◆ Lasting joy
- ◆ Power to be an overcomer
- ◆ Meaning in life

And you live and will die in doubt.

You can never say with Job, "I know that my redeemer liveth and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, and though after my skin, worms destroy my flesh, yet in my flesh shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself and not another."

Forget the bunnies, eggs, lilies, hot cross buns, and the lies that Satan has added to the story. Just stick with the facts and believe the Gospel.

I Corinthians 15:1-4, "1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures**"