

***The Real Facts About the Resurrection
Can God Raise the Dead?
1 Corinthians 15:20-28***

Vs. 1-7 – The importance of the Gospel.

1. The gospel is the door to salvation.
2. Paul defines the Gospel.
 - A. Christ died for our sins – Vs. 3.
 - B. Christ was buried – Vs. 4.
 - C. Christ rose from the dead – Vs. 4.
 - 1) All in accordance with the scripture.

Vs. 8-10 – There was eyewitness evidence.

1. Peter
 - A. The 12
 - B. More than 500
 - C. James
 - D. Saul (Paul)

Vs. 12-19 – Paul address those who deny the resurrection.

1. If Christ didn't raise from the grave.
 - A. Our preaching & faith would be empty.
 - B. We would be promoting a lie.
 - C. We would be living a hopeless life.
 - D. We would be people living in misery.

Proof that God can raise the dead.

- A. ***God already raised the Man Christ Jesus from the dead***
- B. Paul has already given an eye witness account of this fact (vs. 8-10).

Jesus Christ is the assurance of life and the guarantee of the resurrection – Vs. 20-23.

1. Look at how vs. 20 starts – “But now”.
 - A. This is a connection to the verses prior to these.

Three marvelous works to guarantee the resurrection.

First – Jesus is the firstfruits of those who slept - Vs. 20.

1. This is a reference to the Jewish farmers first crop.
 - A. They were to take part of the first crop (first fruit) and offer it to God.
2. Two very important things take place that will help us understand this.
 - A. First – the first in order of time.
 - 1) The first fruit that was harvested.
 - B. Second – these first fruits were to be offered to God.
 - 1) This assures God's blessings upon the rest of the harvest.
3. Resurrection of Jesus Christ (first fruits).
 - A. First man to resurrected and never die again.
 - B. Jesus had raised others but they eventually die.
 - C. Christ lives forever – Assures the blessings of others.
4. ***Christ resurrection is our guarantee believers will be raised from the dead.***
 - A. This is a life time warranty.
 - B. *Better stated this way – This is an eternal warranty.*

Second – Christ reversed the curse of sin and death that Adam brought – Vs. 21-22.

- 1. Adam & Christ representative heads of the human race.***
- 2. First man Adam – he brought death to all humanity (vs. 21).***
 - A. Note it says “in” Adam, all die.
 - 1) “In” – inside, within, included, united, connected.
 - B. We all inherit the nature of our parents.
 - 1) By Adam's disobedience that nature has been corrupted.
 - 2) It brought a separation between man and God.
 - 3) After Adam's disobedience death came to man.
 - C. We all have inherited that corrupt nature.
- 3. By man (Christ) shall all be made alive (vs. 22).***
 - A. The word “in” connects us to Christ.
 - B. We are connected to the nature of Christ.
 - C. ***What is Christ nature?***
 - 1) ***Sinless and divine nature.***
 - 2) ***Resurrected nature.***

Third – Christ has completed His purpose – He was the first to raise from the dead – Vs. 23.

1. It is worth stating it was God who raised Jesus from the dead.
 - A. Jesus experienced death.
 - B. Jesus experienced life again by the power of His Father.
2. Jesus had to complete His work before man could be saved and raised up from the dead.

A look at how powerful this resurrection power is – Vs. 24-28.

1. Paul fast forwards to a time that is yet to come.
- 2. Then cometh the end – Christ will rule in His resurrected power – Vs. 24-25.***
- 3. Death will be no more – Vs. 26.***
 - A. Death has an end.
 - B. This curse Adam brought to humanity will one day end.
 - C. Death will be swallowed up in victory.
- 4. Christ will rule over all things – Vs. 27.***

Jesus will sit at His Father's feet – Vs. 28.