

Validated Part 2

1 Cor 15:3-4

Have you ever noticed that the wisest people you know seem to say the least?

Some people say a lot and most of it you never remember

But these people, when they speak you never forget – their words cut through all the drama

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a lot like a wise person

We read about a lot in the Bible

But then one phrase about the resurrection lights up the darkness and bring hope that goes beyond death itself

Something most people miss.....the resurrection is expressed from Genesis to Revelation

The reason we miss it is because it isn't emphasized by repetition

The Bible highlights the resurrection, not by a lot of words, but by the way we are made to anticipate it

Let me explain – The Bible, in many ways, is a book about death

It begins in Genesis when death entered the world through Adam's sin

It ends in Revelation with the celebration of the end of death for all believers

In between those two books we are constantly reminded of the inevitability of our mortality

So, when the resurrection is mentioned there is beam of light shining on our helplessness and hopelessness

Because of the many words of death when the few words of the resurrection are spoken, **they cut through the drama!**

The resurrection is the only answer to the problem of death

The resurrection shouts that our hope is real and that we can fully trust God to resurrect us!!

Hope works like this:

A doctor can spend an hour telling you about your life-threatening cancer.....

But at the end of that hour, he can tell you that a simple surgery will save your life....

It's the details of the problem that increases the impact of the solution

That is Easter – That is the resurrection!!!!

The good news of salvation is the cure for the illness the Bible has been diagnosing

It's the resurrection that "validates" the cure

That is why the resurrection is the core of the Christian message

It is the reason Paul could say, "*O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?*" 1 Cor 15:55

The resurrection underpins everything

1 Cor 1:13 – *Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*

Even if Paul was crucified – he didn't raise from the dead

1 Cor 1:18 – *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God* – the power is in the empty tomb

1 Cor 1:23 – *but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,*

Because all they see is a Roman execution – but we see an empty tomb

1 Cor 2:2 – *For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*

Why do we remember His crucifixion – because of the empty tomb

Pastor Don..... those are all scriptures about the cross?!

It is because of the resurrection that all of this is possible – 1 Cor 1:2 - *To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and our*

Vs 2: *We can be sanctified in Christ Jesus* – if He didn't raise from the death there would be no holiness to be gained from a union with Him

Vs 2: *We can call upon the name of the Lord* – only a **living** Lord can still act on our behalf

Vs 3: *We can receive grace.....and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ* – Christians are marked as people who give and receive grace and peace because those are gifts directly from a **living** Christ

Vs:5: *We can be in every way enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge* – It is the **risen** Jesus Himself that is the source of all knowledge and wisdom

Vs:6: *The apostles testimony about Christ was confirmed among you* – It's the **risen** Jesus who dwells in the born again believer

Vs: 7: *We are to wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ* – believers live in anticipation of the return of the **risen** Savior

Vs: 9: *We called into fellowship of His Son* – We have a relationship with a **living** Jesus

Vs:17: *Preach the gospel* – the **living** Jesus changed a murderous Saul into a Preaching Paul..... it's the **living** Jesus that transforms our lives and calls us into mission with Him

Vs: 23-24: *We preach Christ crucified..... the power of God* – A crucified Christ is the power of God because **death** couldn't hold Him

And just in case you miss the point – 1 Cor 1:30 – “And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became the wisdom of God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption”

A dead man cannot become a source of wisdom, righteousness, or sanctification!!

It only happens because death was destroyed because of the resurrection

Without Jesus' death there could not have been a resurrection, but equally, without the resurrection even the death of Jesus would have been meaningless

For His death to matter He had to emerge from the grave alive

And that is why the gospel is good news

Friday is "good" because apart from His ongoing life, the cross is without any power

1 Peter 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

Easter is the "Validation" that..... THE GOOD NEWS IS..... THE BAD NEWS WAS WRONG!!!

Eph 1:19-20 - *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, Have you ever stopped to consider how Jesus' resurrection saved you?*

No – we only see that as a working of the cross

1 Peter 1:2 – elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:19 – but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

So which is it? Is it Jesus' death or His resurrection that saves us?

We are saved by both working together

*1 Peter 1:11 – searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the **glories** that would follow.*

The two are so connected that to mention one is to reference the other

Jesus died to save us – Jesus was raised to save us – they are exactly the same thing

Rom 6:4 - Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

1 Cor 2:2 - and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

*Acts 17:18 - Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babblers want to say? Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus **and the resurrection**.*

Without the resurrection, the cross was just another senseless death perpetrated by the Romans, and without the cross there would be no need for a resurrection

Both must be preached, and they must be preached together

The perfect life, obedient death, and life-giving resurrection of Jesus is the saving work, and inseparable act of a loving God!

We tend to pay little attention to the reality of our own future death

We have learned to ignore the fact that someday we will die

Our death has become some far off remote unreal occurrence

Could this be why Easter, the resurrection, doesn't seem like such a big deal?

That is a huge mistake – most people are always surprised by their own death

This Easter, 31 years after my first as a Christian, I still have questions

Are you ready for your own death?

Do you have hope that goes beyond the grave?

It is the resurrection of Jesus that validates and prepares us to face death with assurance

That "validation" lets me, as a believer, approach death differently because I have already begun to truly live

We have tasted of that heavenly life already

God give us life to the full that will never cease – Jn10:10 – The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Listen, a disembodied heavenly state is not our final resting place!!!

One day.... We too will be like Jesus – living in God's presence, but with a new, glorious, resurrected body

Life is itself a terminal condition, so we might be forgiven for arguing that resurrection is the most important theme in the Bible

Easter is a practical "validation" for us!!!!!!!