



April 21, 2019

**Icebreaker:** When you think about Easter, all kinds of symbols for how you've celebrated probably come to mind . . . from an Easter basket to the empty tomb. What other symbols of the season come to mind? Has one in particular been meaningful for you? Why?

**[Q]** Read John 20:1-20, noting the witnesses and evidences for the resurrection of Jesus as you read. What stands out to you?

**[Q]** According to Acts 17:30-31 (below), why is it life-and-death important for people to believe in the resurrected Christ?

*The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” Acts 17:30-31 (ESV)*

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12–20.

**[Q]** Why do you suppose some of the Corinthians were saying that there was no resurrection of the dead (v. 12)?

**[Q]** Why would our faith be useless if there is no resurrection of the dead (v. 14)?

**[Q]** What does this tell us about choosing to believe one part of the Bible while rejecting other parts?

**[Q]** Why are we to be pitied if we only have hope in this life (v. 19)?

**Read Romans 8:11:**

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (ESV)*

**[Q]** The power that raised Christ from the dead is available to you! What do you need His power for today?

- defeating your own selfishness?
- loving other people?
- treasuring Christ above all?

Please explain.

**This week:** Spend time meditating on 1 Corinthians 15 this week and share your findings with someone!

“O God of my exodus, Great was the joy of Israel’s sons when Egypt died upon the shore,  
Far greater the joy when the Redeemer’s foe lay crushed in the dust!  
Jesus strides forth as the victor, conqueror of death, hell, and all opposing might;  
He bursts the bands of death, tramples the powers of darkness down, and lives forever.  
He, my gracious surety, apprehended for payment of my debt,  
comes forth from the prison house of the grave free, and triumphant over sin, Satan, and death.  
Show me the proof that his vicarious offering is accepted, that the claims of justice are satisfied,  
that the devil’s scepter is shattered, that his wrongful throne is leveled.  
Give me the assurance that in Christ I died, in him I rose, in his life I live, in his victory I triumph,  
in his ascension I shall be glorified.”  
– Puritan Prayer, from the *Valley of Vision* (adapted)

**PRAY**

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