

The Relevance of the Resurrection

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Morning Sermon by Ray Reynolds (April 2, 2017)

Text: I Corinthians 15:1-20

Introduction: Why do some people love Easter? Why do others hesitate to recognize this holiday? I believe that the significance of Easter is often overlooked by members of the Lord's church. It is also distorted by many churches and denominations in America. Easter is a world-wide recognized celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity for us to teach the world about the relevance of the resurrection. In order to accomplish that, and gain a greater appreciation for it ourselves, we are going to spend time this morning looking at one of the great resurrection passages in the Bible (I Corinthians 15). Let's study together...

Discussion:

1) IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION...

A. *Death would have won and the life of Christ would have been exterminated.*

Job 19:25-26, John 14:19, Acts 2:24-32, Romans 6:1-6, I Corinthians 15:14

B. *Darkness would have won and the light of Christ would have been extinguished.*

John 8:12, I Corinthians 15:19, I Corinthians 15:51-55, II Peter 3:13

C. *Destruction would have won and the loss of Christ would have been empty.*

I Corinthians 15:17-20, I Corinthians 15:56-57, Hebrews 1:3, Revelation 1:17-20

2) IF THERE IS A RESURRECTION...

A. *Death has been defeated and the life of Christ has been effective.*

Job 19:25-26, John 14:19, Acts 2:24-32, Romans 6:1-6, I Corinthians 15:14, Matthew 28:1-15

B. *Darkness has been defeated and the light of Christ has been extended.*

John 8:12, I Corinthians 15:19, 15:51-55, II Peter 3:13, Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:15

C. *Destruction has been defeated and the loss of Christ has been empowering.*

I Corinthians 15:17-57, Hebrews 1:3, Revelation 1:17-20, Philippians 3:8-11, Isaiah 53

Conclusion: As we come here today we come to worship God. We come to celebrate the fact that there is an empty tomb. There are no relics because Jesus was bodily resurrected from the grave nearly 2,000 years ago and ascended to the Father's right hand. We are not here to memorialize a great religious teacher but to celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ is alive and reigns as King of the universe. Remember that the angel said, "*Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said*" (Matthew 28:5-6). You can know it. You can believe it. And if the resurrection is relevant in your life you need to tell people about it! Come to Jesus! Share His story!