

DESCRIBE A HISTORICALLY DOCUMENTED AND VERIFIED EVENT THAT HAPPENED BEFORE YOUR LIFETIME THAT YOU FIND MOST INTERESTING AND/OR IMPORTANT.



ADVOCATES.AWANAYM.ORG/RESURRECTION

CORE VERSES

And that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:5-7

This passage is considered to be the hallmark passage on the resurrection of Jesus. Paul's letter to the Corinthians is designed to remind a group of Christians struggling with living out the gospel in a pagan world. The Corinthians were terribly confused about what it meant to give, to worship, to have spiritual gifts, and even what it meant to love. Some of their beliefs and practices led to a disbelief in the resurrection and it's in Chapter 15 that Paul makes it clear that if we were to take away the resurrection, we would remove Jesus' victory over sin. Therefore the power of sin is still present, leaving all of us condemned in our sins. Essentially, without the resurrection of Jesus, there is no reason to believe in Jesus.

USE THE SPACE BELOW TO HELP YOU REMEMBER THESE VERSES. FEEL FREE TO WRITE, DRAW, OR DESIGN IN WAYS THAT MAKE SENSE TO YOU.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15.

You'll be hard pressed to find a passage that holds greater implications for Christians than 1 Corinthians 15. It begins with Paul explaining to his readers that he is passing on something that was given to him, popularly known as the resurrection creed, which is recorded in verses 3-7. This creed can be broken down into four key components: Jesus *died*, He was *buried*, He *rose*, and He was *seen*.

The fact that Jesus died by crucifixion is nearly indisputable by ancient historians. And it is widely accepted that many of His followers encountered Him after His death, leading them to turn their lives around and boldly proclaim Christ's message. In the creed, Paul lists many of these people, basically challenging his readers, "Don't believe me? Ask them!"

But more than just teaching the historicity of the resurrection, Paul also explains why it matters. He tells his readers that if Christ was not raised from the dead, our preaching is useless and so is our faith (v. 14). Furthermore, we are still lost in our sin (v. 17) and should be pitied more than anyone else in this world (v. 19). Paul tells his readers that he faces death every day for the gospel (v. 31). But if the message is not true, why would we put ourselves in that much danger (v. 30)?

In other words, if Christianity is false, then we're the greatest fools on earth. All of the suffering and persecution Christians have faced throughout the centuries was for nothing. There is no forgiveness of sins, no final justice, no future hope. Paul sums this up in verse 32 with a quotation from Isaiah 22 ... Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. Enjoy your life while you're here, because when it's over, it's over.

However, if Jesus did in fact rise from the dead, we have true hope for life after death. Christ overcame the sin that Adam brought into the world (vv. 21-22). Someday our weak, mortal bodies will be traded in for ones that are glorious, powerful, and will last forever (vv. 42-43). If we suffer for Christ, if we lay down our lives for Him, it is worth it. We don't have to fear death since Jesus conquered it.

Christianity isn't some mere religion. It isn't just a list of rules to help you live a better life or a collection of stories to make you feel good. It is truth. Jesus came to bring us everlasting life.

However, following Christ isn't easy. Paul knew this firsthand. He suffered greatly and even gave his life in service to the gospel. There are people all around the world right now suffering for believing in the resurrection of Jesus. But remember, Jesus has already won! He rose from death and death has no power over us. So let Paul's words from verse 58 encourage you: Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

CORE CONCEPTS

The resurrection of Jesus is a historically corroborated event supported by numerous and early sources.

Source:

Original, eyewitness-documented account

BASED ON THE READING, WRITE A QUESTION YOU MIGHT HAVE.

CHOOSE two questions from below (including yours from yesterday). Spend the next two days exploring them. Feel free to use reference books (like Bible dictionaries, commentaries, concordances), search online, listen to/watch sermons, and/or ask a mentor/parent/pastor. Record your findings below.

- How is a message of insightful teaching or good advice different than a message based on facts? What impact do facts have on the person listening to that message?
- What significance does the fact that the resurrection really happened hold in the gospel message?
- > Why is Paul so clear about who witnessed the resurrection?

WARNER

WANT TO KNOW MORE? CHECK OUT THIS BOOK! Cold-Case Christianity, by J. Warner Wallace advocates.awanaym.org/library

ACTION PLAN

Based on what you have learned over the last five days about the resurrection, create a personal statement about the resurrection of Jesus. Provide references (biblical and non-biblical), evidence, or observations to support your statement.

NOTES - SPEAKER:

DATE:

CITATION TRACK CHECKLIST >> 5.2

ARE YOU ON TRACK WITH YOUR BIBLE READING? RECORD WHAT YOU READ HERE:

DAYS 1-6 CORE VERSES

LEADER'S INITIALS DATE