

Easter 2024: Resurrection Faith

1 Corinthians 15:12-28 ¹² Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

“For if the dead are not raised, even Christ has not been raised.” Do you believe in the resurrection of the dead?

Do you believe that God is a God of resurrection, that He has raised the dead, raised Christ, and raises the dead today?

For many believers, this is simply a bridge too far. We can accept many things, but not God raising the dead!

Rejecting resurrection now means we will not have faith for a miracle we will need at a time and date yet unspecified.

John 11:21-23 ²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” ²³ Jesus *said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha *said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Martha did what we do: she buried her pain and “waxed theological”: “Yes Lord, I do believe in that distant resurrection.”

Believing in an immediate, miraculous resurrection was too much. In place of faith, grief had taught her heart DESPAIR.

Despair is that calm, undisturbed realist who uses great pain to cauterize unbelief.

Martha’s spirit had been broken by her brother’s unnecessary death and Jesus’ heartless delay in coming to them.

Proverbs 18:14 ¹⁴ The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, But *as for* a broken spirit who can bear it?

How many of us have been broken by hardship, and we have covered our despair with respectable God-statements?!

Jesus won’t let her get away with it! He came to heal the broken, not to teach the broken to fake wellness.

John 11:21-23 ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world.”

Jesus said, “I am resurrection! It’s not just what I do, it’s who I am. Can you accept me as I am?”

We must admit death to be candidates for a resurrection. Jesus would raise Lazarus, and Mary and Martha with him!

Resurrection is that moment when, against all reason and all odds, Jesus makes death give way to overcoming life!

1 Corinthians 15:53-54 ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory.

What despair or brokenness have you been covering up? It’s time to get real with Jesus. There’s nothing He cannot heal!

Let him open the grave and call you out. It's time to believe and receive your resurrection!