

Why the Resurrection of Jesus?

Resurrection Day, as known as Easter, has nothing to do with a fuzzy bunny, colored eggs, a basket filled with chocolates, but it has everything to do with the God who died for mankind's sins.

Some of you might be agnostic, thinking that not sure whether there is a God or not. But you may not be against the existence of God either. Some of you might believe that there is a God and it really doesn't matter how you believe as long as you believe in that vague existence of God. Or some of you think yourselves as a religious person, because you were born in America. So you might even think that you are a Christian and God will be glad to see you coming to heaven, since you got baptized, or confirmed, or member of a particular denomination.

I am going to make this clear from the beginning. God doesn't care about anything I just listed before or our credentials. He is not impressed by our intelligence or social status.

A. THE REASON FOR THE DEATH OF CHRIST

According to the Book of Genesis, when Adam and Eve sinned against God by eating the forbidden fruit with disobedience in their hearts, that is the beginning of our sinful nature. The Bible says that all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And it also says that the wage of our sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Whether people want to admit or not, mankind are born with sinful nature. We don't have to teach our little ones to lie to us. They just know how. Some of you might think, "That is too harsh." But that is the fact.

Mankind had to die for his sins, but because God loved the mankind so much that He sent His Substitute. That substitute couldn't be an animal or another sinful human to wipe away our sins and makes us righteous in God's sight. It had to be a man without sin. That is why God took a human form to be the substitute of man's sin's consequence.

B. THE REASON FOR THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

No harichrisina, no Buddha, Mohammed, no other so-called gods or religious leaders rose from dead. Their DNAs still can be found from their graves. But Jesus' grave is the only one empty. The whole basic concept of Christianity is resided in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord God.

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

The pharisees crucified Jesus on the cross. They didn't want to take a chance. So they even put Roman guards around the tomb to make sure that the body of this so-called Messiah stay inside of the tomb. That would have destroyed any possibility of this crazy people's movement that followed a young Jewish carpenter as their Messiah.

To their surprise, on Sunday morning, they found that the tomb was EMPTY and the body was gone and no one knew about it.

The silence of the pharisees who were against the resurrection of Jesus was more than eloquent and enough proof of the Risen Savior.

If they could provide the body of Christ, there wouldn't be any Christianity existing, because the faith in Christ is solely depend on the resurrection and redemption through Jesus Christ.

While the disciples were chickening out in the upper room which should have been called as a hen house, the reality of resurrection was known to two women at the tomb.

The stone was rolled away for the honest seekers to get in, not for Jesus to get out.

C. NO ONE CAN GO TO HEAVEN WITHOUT JESUS

Believing that there is no God doesn't change the fact that someday all of us are going to face God one way or another.

It is the same thing as someone sincerely believe that there is no gravity on earth. If that person jumps off from a high rise building or high mountain, he will find that what he believed and the fact of the law of gravity are completely different and will realize that it is too late to change his mind.

1 Tim 2:3-6a For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all

Our works, good behaviors, achievements won't be anything in the presence of God's holiness and righteousness. The Bible says that our righteousness is nothing but a filthy rag to compare with His righteousness.

However, when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are taking His righteousness and holiness instead of ours.

D. NO ONE IS OUT OF GOD'S GRACE

Luke 23:40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

There were three crosses on Calvary's hill. On one was a man dying in sin—he did not accept Jesus. On another was a man dying to sin—he trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord. And on the middle cross was One dying for sin. He could die for others because He was God's Son and had no sin of His own. The center cross made all the difference for those two men hanging beside Jesus—the difference between an eternal hell and an eternal heaven.

The whole world is represented by those two thieves and their response to the Lord Jesus. I see in the three crucified individuals a picture of the sinner, the saint, and the Savior.

You may say, "You don't know what I have done." That's right. I don't know and I don't need to know. But God knows it exactly and still loves you and forgives your sins if you come to Him with a sincere heart. You too will hear His word of forgiveness and hope.

E. GOD LOVES YOU

Do you know anyone who loves you so much to die for you? Jesus did. God sent His best for you and me. God loves you and has a great plan for you. Don't reject His invitation for your eternal life in Christ Jesus. Receive Him today, not tomorrow. For tomorrow may never come.

Are you willing to look into the proof of the Risen Savior Jesus? The same choice was given to the disciples are given today to you all. You can believe and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior and have the love from God or walk away from His invitation to be God's child through Christ and face the eternal consequence of your choice.

The choice is yours.

Jesus declares, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* That means that there is no other way to get to heaven other than through Jesus Christ.

The Bible also says, *"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

In a minute, I am going to give you an opportunity to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Please remember that you don't have to be anyone special to be a child of God. You don't have to bring any valuable thing to Him other than sincere heart.

Repeat after me, please.

"Heavenly Father, I confess that I am a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins. By faith, I believe that Jesus died for my sins, and rose again from death and is sitting at the right hand of the Father. Right now, I want to turn away from my sins and want to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior into my heart. Please come into my heart. In Jesus' name, amen."

This time, I am going to talk to some of you who once came to the Lord Jesus. But you walked away from Him, because you wanted what the world could offer with sinful pleasure. God is waiting for you. Come back to Him. You have been gone so long. The loving Father in heaven is waiting for you.

For those who are coming back to God, please repeat after me:

"Heavenly Father, I confess that I walked away from you. Please forgive me for my sins. Please receive me and wash away all my sins and help me to be rooted and grounded in Your Word, so that I may never depart from You again. In Jesus' name, amen."