

The Doctrine Of The Resurrection



Jesus' Resurrection – does it matter?

Discuss the following quote from *Raised Forever* by Rory Shiner:

“I don't think the claim 'Jesus was raised from the dead' is the kind of thing that you assess, consider and accept on the basis of probabilities and then casually get on with your day... to receive the testimony that Jesus was raised from the dead would involve you, and it would involve changes in you.”

Raised Forever is one of the various books recommended below for further reading. In this great book Rory Shiner observes that most of the New Testament argues *from* the resurrection of Jesus, not *for* the resurrection. We don't find many arguments defending the fact of the resurrection – it is simply stated as a reality. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 is a brief exception to this.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

- List all the points that build the case for the reality of the resurrection of Jesus. You should have at least one point for each verse.

Put this brief 'case for the resurrection' in its immediate context by reading v1-11.

- How important is the resurrection of Jesus to Paul's gospel message?
- Do you think we over or under emphasise the resurrection of Jesus in how we think and speak about the gospel?
- If you want to see whether this was just Paul hammering a point with the Corinthians, see his other 'gospel summaries' in Acts 17:22-31, Rom 1:1-4, 2 Tim 2:8.

Paul now turns from briefly making the case *for* the resurrection of Jesus, to spend a lot more time making his point *from* the resurrection. It might be helpful to see how the next two chunks approach the issue from two different perspectives:

- V12-20 'Here's the problem in your thinking':
 - V12 introduces the pastoral issue: "How can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?" How does Paul show the flaws of their perspective?
 - In the context of this passage, what does Paul mean by verse 19?

Recommended resources:

- *Raised Forever* Rory Shiner
 - One of the best books on this topic. Easy to read yet comprehensive in scope.
 - \$19 paperback. \$10 ebook direct from the publisher
 - <https://matthiasmedia.com.au/products/raised-forever>

- *The Christ Files* John Dickson
 - An engaging overview of the historical reliability of the Gospels.
 - \$18 paperback, \$12 ebook, \$12 Vimeo on demand
 - <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/christfiles>

- The Centre For Public Christianity
 - Three very helpful short videos with leading Bible scholars. Don't let the term 'youth-resource' in the URL mislead you – these are great for any age.
 - <https://www.publicchristianity.org/youth-resource/evidence-jesus-resurrection-actually-took-place/>

- *The Case for Easter* Lee Strobel
 - An excerpt from the longer *The Case For Christ* this booklet has been around for a while but is still a helpful and engaging read.
 - \$4 paperback, \$3 ebook. Also available as audiobook through Audible

The Resurrection – our future hope

Last week we started to think about the ‘so what’ of Jesus’ resurrection. How have you found your prayers being impacted as you reflect on his defeat of death and present reign over all things?

As we’ve seen, 1 Corinthians 15 shows how Jesus’ resurrection shapes our expectation of our own resurrection. Before we dive into the second half of 1 Corinthians 15, share with each other what you find hard to imagine about life after death.

Read 1 Cor 15:35-49.

- What is so foolish about the question of verse 35?

- Paul makes two analogies in the section from v35-44. One of a plant growing from seed to show how something can be essentially the same yet radically different. The other is of different ‘kinds’ of bodies to show that God is totally capable of allocating the right ‘kind’ of body. What does each of these examples teach us about how our resurrection bodies will compare with our present bodies?

- Paul makes a third comparison, between our bodies 'in Adam' and our bodies 'in Christ' in v45-49. What does this teach us about how our resurrection bodies will compare with our present bodies?

Read 1 Cor 15:50-57

Having addressed the concern about those who have died as believers in Christ (or 'fallen asleep' as he puts it in v18), Paul turns to an implied question: "Well, that's really cool for people who die in Christ, they'll be raised when he returns. But what about those who happen to be alive when he comes back? Are they stuck with their ordinary earthly bodies forever?' (see v51 'We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed...').

There is a lot of back and forth about perishable and imperishable things, but his point is basically that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God on their own (more broadly we know this is because we're under sin and its curse). Something needs to be done to us: we need to be "clothed".

- How does this section sum up the remarkable change that our future resurrection will bring?

Recommended resources:

- *Raised Forever* Rory Shiner
 - One of the best books on this topic. Easy to read yet comprehensive in scope. Good for Christian and enquirer.
 - \$19 paperback or \$10 ebook
 - <https://matthiasmedia.com.au/products/raised-forever>

- *Lifted* Sam Allberry
 - Another excellent book that spends less time on the credibility of the resurrection and more on its relevance – both for the present and the future.
 - \$20 paperback or \$14 ebook
 - <https://ivpbooks.com/lifted>

- *Raised with Christ* Adrian Warnock
 - A comprehensive overview pitched at Christians who haven't taken the resurrection seriously enough.
 - \$25 paperback. Audiobook and ebook available direct from the publisher Crossway
 - <https://www.crossway.org/books/raised-with-christ-tpb/>

The Resurrection – raised with Christ now

Last week we finished with 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, 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.

Share one way that the hope of future resurrection impacted you this week.

In *Raised Forever* Rory Shiner quotes a Christian journalist who was asked what she would do if it was somehow proven that Jesus Christ was never raised from the dead. She responded: “I think my faith would be strong enough to survive that.” What do you make of this response, especially in light of what we’ve read in 1 Corinthians 15?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

- How does Paul describe our situation before we were saved and our situation now?

- Paul says that God 'made us alive with Christ... and God raised us up with Christ...' (v5-6). What does this teach us about the significance of Jesus' resurrection for our present life, not just our future hope?

What does each passage below teach us about the impact of being already raised with Christ on life in the present?

- Romans 6:5-13

- Colossians 3:1-5 (see Col 2:9-13 so see where the 'Since...' refers back to)

- 1 Peter 1:3-7

If you have time, you might like to consider these other passages that present a direct link between Jesus' resurrection and our every day living:

- Acts 4:32-35
- Acts 17:30-31 (reading from v22 will provide some context)
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

To ponder further...

In his excellent book 'Lifted' Sam Allberry explores how the resurrection impacts our daily lives. Considering Romans 6:11 he says:

"In the moment of temptation, sin feels good – it feels warm and right. When it is a sin that has done business with us in the past, it also feels inevitable, like an old friend we can't say 'no' to. It is at this point I need to remember the resurrection. This particular sin is not inevitable any more. I am not bound to it any longer. I am free not to fall in it. Bad habits of even many years can be changed."

What steps can you take this week to have Jesus' resurrection impact your life? Take this to God in prayer, asking that he would work powerfully in you with the same power that raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:18-20).

Recommended resources:

- *Raised Forever* Rory Shiner
 - One of the best books on this topic. Easy to read yet comprehensive in scope. Good for Christian and enquirer.
 - \$19 paperback or \$10 ebook
 - <https://matthiasmedia.com.au/products/raised-forever>

- *Lifted* Sam Allberry
 - Another excellent book that spends less time on the credibility of the resurrection and more on its relevance for our present as well as our future.
 - \$20 paperback or \$14 ebook
 - <https://ivpbooks.com/lifted>

- *You Can Change* Tim Chester
 - This book is not specifically about the resurrection but certainly picks up on how our new identity in Christ practically impacts life. Biblically astute, theologically grounded, and very, very practical.
 - \$23 paperback, \$15 ebook



TRINITY
CHURCH