

In search of...

Truth & Right

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Resurrection of the Dead

The apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote to the Church in Corinth concerning those who were at that time disputing that there is no resurrection of the dead (like the Sadducees before them):

“For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1 Cor. 15:16-22)

Many people who claim to believe in God and Jesus are observing today as a holiday, calling it “Easter.” It is taught in most denominations that today is the one day out of the year when Christians are to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus. Yet any Bible scholar will plainly tell you that no such observance or celebration is seen in God’s Word, nor is it alluded to; in fact, the earliest recorded mention of today as being a religious holiday is from the mid-to-late second century.

To be more precise, the event which Christians are to commemorate is the death of Jesus, not His resurrection from the dead. And that observance is to take place not annually, fixed to the calendar year during the same season like Passover.

"On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight." (Acts 20:7)

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Since we thus establish that Christians have the responsibility and privilege of keeping the memorial of Jesus' death every first day of the week, what does that mean concerning His resurrection? Are we to assume that because He commanded us to remember one and not the other, His death is more significant than His resurrection? Of course not! In His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus was the propitiation for our sins. As foreshadowed by the Passover

lamb and the scapegoat offered every year on the Day of Atonement, His death is of the utmost importance. But what would His dying mean if He were not raised? That is the question that Paul answered in 1 Cor. 15.

If Jesus had died and stayed dead, He would be like any other man. What made Him so special and so different is that He overcame death. Again, as Paul pointed out, by raising from the dead Himself, Jesus set the precedent for us. We can know that resurrection from the dead (a true resurrection, not just temporary or in spirit) is not only possible, but it is guaranteed by God! Through faith in Christ, we can have confidence that our death here on Earth is not the end!

When it comes to the forgiveness of sins, Jesus HAD to die and HAD to rise again, because only His sacrifice would be the perfect one-time offering for the transgressions of mankind, and so that He would show His power over Satan and the grave. He told us to remember His death, His body and His blood. We worship Him by proclaiming that sacrifice and what it did.

Under the new law, with the new covenant we have with Christ, there are no annual feasts as there were under the Law of

Moses. Yet being thankful for the resurrection of Jesus is central to our faith. On a daily basis, we ought to give thought to how He lived, died, rose again, ascended into Heaven, and that He has promised to come again. The most important thing for us, like the apostle Paul, needs to be preparing for and looking forward to that coming day of judgment.

"and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith- that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead." (Phil. 3:9-11)

Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again. The same can happen to us! To be with God the Father, and with Christ, for eternity is what the Lord wants for us! So what do we want? Do you know that He died? More importantly, do you know why He died? He died for you! He rose FOR YOU! Accept the gift of salvation that He is offering, and enjoy the reconciliation He made possible for you!

Jarred Currence

*Happy Moments,
Praise God.*

*Difficult Moments,
Seek God.*

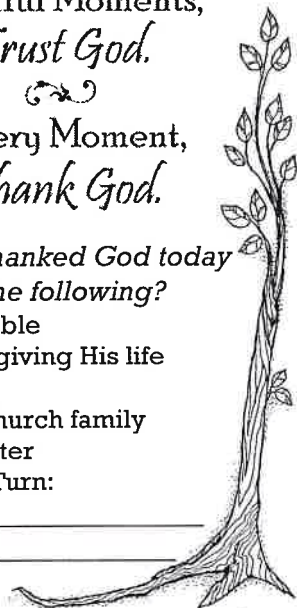
*Quiet Moments,
Worship God.*

*Painful Moments,
Trust God.*

*Every Moment,
Thank God.*

*Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?*

- ☐ The Bible
- ☐ Jesus giving His life for us
- ☐ Our church family
- ☐ Laughter
- ☐ Your Turn:



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BIBLE Trivia!

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. What king had the prophet Uriah murdered for opposing him?

- a) Jehoshaphat
- b) David
- c) Jehoiakim
- d) Jehoram

2. Bernice was the consort of what ruler?

- a) King Agrippa
- b) Pontius Pilate
- c) Felix
- d) Porcius Festus

3. This prophet was famous for his marriage to a prostitute.

- a) Haggai
- b) Elijah
- c) Nahum
- d) Hosea

4. When Moses was in the tabernacle, where did God's voice come from?

- a) All around him
- b) Above the ark of the covenant
- c) The lampstand
- d) A still, small voice whispered in his ear

5. What Christian witness was killed by the people of Pergamos?

- a) Antipas
- b) Phillip
- c) Polycarp
- d) Apollos

6. Who bribed the guards at Jesus' tomb to say that the disciples had stolen the body?

- a) The governor, Pilate
- b) The Sadducees
- c) The Pharisees
- d) The chief priests

7. Who is the first priest mentioned in the Bible?

- a) Aaron
- b) Jethro
- c) Melchizedek
- d) Levi

8. Who said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord"?

- a) Elizabeth
- b) Mary
- c) Sarah
- d) Gabriel

9. Which book of the Bible's first verse is "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem."?

- a) Song of Solomon
- b) Proverbs
- c) Ecclesiastes
- d) 1 Kings

10. Which epistle says, "We were as sheep going astray"?

- a) 1 Peter
- b) 1 John
- c) 1 Timothy
- d) James

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES:

- 1) B, Reference: Malachi 3:8
- 2) C, Reference: Luke 11:12
- 3) B, Reference: Nehemiah 3:1
- 4) D, Reference: John 21:1-13
- 5) C, Reference: Ezra 8:21-23

- 6) A, Reference: John 10:31, 39; 8:59
- 7) D, Reference: Job 17:13
- 8) C, Reference: Revelation 6:2
- 9) A, Reference: Psalm 137
- 10) B, Reference: Acts 15:32