

Overcoming the Grave!

Brandon Phillips

Resurrection Day

Pre-Sermon Comments

[1 Corinthians 15:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Proposition and Outline

In [1 Cor 15:1-8](#), the Apostle Paul gives three core tenets about the resurrection and the Gospel in which we must remain steadfast and firm. We must remain steadfast and firm in the:

- Gospel's Proclamation ([1 Cor 15:1](#))
- Gospel's Power ([1 Cor 15:2](#))
- Gospel's Proof ([1 Cor 15:3-8](#))

Introduction

[Hebrews 9:27](#) (LSB) ²⁷ And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,

[2 Timothy 3:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness,

[2 Peter 1:3](#) (LSB) ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

[2 Peter 1:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ And we have as more sure the prophetic word, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

The resurrection of our divine Lord from the dead is the cornerstone of Christian doctrine. Perhaps I might more accurately call it the keystone of the arch of Christianity, for if that fact could be disproved, the whole fabric of the gospel would fall to the ground. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

We must remain steadfast and firm in the Gospel's Proclamation (1 Cor 15:1)

[1 Corinthians 15:1](#) (LSB) ¹ Now I make known to you, brothers, the gospel which I proclaimed as good news to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

[Romans 1:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

The bad news?

“Salvation from what?”

[Romans 1:17–18](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH.” ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Your good works will not save you from a holy God!

[Revelation 20:11–15](#) (LSB) ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sits upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² Then I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life. And the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the

dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them, and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. ¹⁴
Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

God is the righteous judge!

[Exodus 34:6-7](#) (LSB) ⁶ Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and called out, “Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

[Isaiah 45:23-24](#) (LSB) ²³ “I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear *allegiance*. ²⁴ “They will say of Me, ‘Only in Yahweh are righteousness and strength.’ Men will come to Him, **And all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.**

The good news!

[1 Corinthians 15:1](#) (LSB) ¹ Now I make known to you, brothers, the gospel which I proclaimed as good news to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

The good news Proclaimed!

[1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#) (LSB) ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither *the* sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

[1 Corinthians 6:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

The good news Pocketed!

[1 Corinthians 1:21-24](#) (LSB) ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not *come to know* God, God was well-pleased, through the foolishness of the message preached, to save those who believe. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The good news Persevering!

[1 Corinthians 15:1](#) (LSB) ¹ Now I make known to you, brothers, the gospel which I proclaimed as good news to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

[Romans 8:30](#) (LSB) ³⁰ and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.

[John 10:28-29](#) (LSB) ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish—ever; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ “My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand.

The good news Preached!

[Romans 5:8-11](#) (LSB) ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of *God* through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only this, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

We must remain steadfast and firm in the Gospel's Power (1 Cor 15:2)

[1 Corinthians 15:2](#) (LSB) ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I proclaimed to you as good news, unless you believed for nothing.

The Gospel's Power for Today!

The Gospel's Power for Tomorrow!

[James 1:12](#) (LSB) ¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

[1 Thessalonians 1:5](#) (LSB) ⁵ for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full assurance; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

[1 Thessalonians 1:8-9](#) (LSB) ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of an entrance we had with you,

[1 Thessalonians 1:9](#) (LSB) **and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.**

[1 Thessalonians 2:1](#) (LSB) ¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our entrance to you was not in vain,

The Gospel's Power for the Totality of Your Life!

[1 Corinthians 15:2](#) (LSB) ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I proclaimed to you as good news, unless you believed for nothing.

[James 2:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

We must remain steadfast and firm in the Gospel's Proof (1 Cor 15:3-8)

[1 Corinthians 15:3](#) (LSB) ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

The Non-Negotiables of God's Gospel

Jesus died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures!

[1 Corinthians 15:3](#) (LSB) ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

[1 Corinthians 1:23-24](#) (LSB) ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

[Isaiah 53:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

[Isaiah 53:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ But Yahweh was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief;

Jesus was buried in the tomb!

[1 Corinthians 15:4](#) (LSB) ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

[John 19:30](#) (LSB) ³⁰ Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

[John 19:33-34](#) (LSB) ³³ but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

[John 19:35](#) (LSB) ³⁵ And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.

Jesus was raised from the dead!

[1 Corinthians 15:4](#) (LSB) ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

The resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian faith; without it, there would be no Christianity. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other world religions. **Adrian Rogers**

[1 Corinthians 15:16–19](#) (LSB) 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.

The Gospel is the Gospel of the Risen Christ. There would be no Gospel for sinners if Christ had not been raised. ~ **H.A. Ironside**

[1 Corinthians 15:20](#) (LSB) ²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The Resurrection is a proven fact!

[1 Corinthians 15:5–8](#) (LSB) ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that, He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

I was raised with the notion that it was OK to ask questions, and it was OK to say, I'm not sure. I believe, but I'm not quite so certain about the resurrection. ~ **Peter Jennings**

The evidence that God gave to confirm the claim of Jesus to be the Son of God is the resurrection. ~ **R. C. Sproul**

[1 Corinthians 15:8](#) (LSB) ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

[Philippians 3:5-6](#) (LSB) ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

[Acts 26:22-25](#) (LSB) ²² “Therefore, having obtained help from God to this day, I stand here bearing witness both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; ²³ that the Christ was to suffer, and that as first of the resurrection from the dead, He was going to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.” ²⁴ Now while Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind! Great learning is driving you out of your mind.” ²⁵ But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth.

[1 Corinthians 15:51-57](#) (LSB) ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on the incorruptible, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this corruptible puts on the incorruptible, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the word that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. ⁵⁵ “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?” ⁵⁶ Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Resurrection is our true hope!

[John 1:29](#) (LSB) ²⁹ On the next day, he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, **the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!

[Revelation 21:4-5](#) (LSB) ⁴ and He will WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES; **and there will no longer be any death**; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain. The first things passed away.” ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

Quotes About the Resurrection

Although we have complete salvation through his death, because we are reconciled to God by it, it is by his resurrection, not his death, that we are said to be born to a living hope ([1 Peter 1:3](#)). ~ **John Calvin**

[1 Peter 1:3](#) (LSB) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of the resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed. ~ **John Stott**

The resurrection is a fact better attested than any event recorded in any history, whether ancient or modern. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest evidence of all for the resurrection. ~ **John Stott; Robert J. Morgan**

The resurrection of Christ and the fact of the empty tomb are not part of the world's complex and continuing mythologies. This is not a Santa Claus tale—it is history and it is reality. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

If men do not rise again from the dead, then we are of all men most miserable—and that is still the truth! The promise of the resurrection makes the difference for the man who is a believing Christian. If men are not to be raised from the dead, why not eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die! ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The resurrection of our divine Lord from the dead is the cornerstone of Christian doctrine. Perhaps I might more accurately call it the keystone of the arch of Christianity, for if that fact could be disproved, the whole fabric of the gospel would fall to the ground. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The same power that brought Christ back from the dead is operative within those who are Christ's. The resurrection is an ongoing thing. ~ **Leon Morris**

There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three. ~

Billy Graham

The Man who died on the cross died in weakness. The Bible is plain in telling us this. But He arose in power. If we forget or deny the truth and glory of His resurrection and the fact that He is seated at the right hand of God, we lose all the significance of the meaning of Christianity! ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The resurrection is God's "Amen!" to Christ's statement, "It is finished." ~ S. Lewis Johnson

True Christian congregations are built on the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the reality of our own coming resurrection through him. ~

Mark Dever

The resurrection was not created by the church; rather, the church was created by the resurrection. ~ **Darrell L. Bock**

We are not, therefore, to regard the cross as defeat and the resurrection as victory. Rather, the cross was the victory won, and the resurrection the victory endorsed, proclaimed and demonstrated. ~ **John Stott**

When Christ's followers rise, they shall leave the old Adam behind them. Blessed day! One of the happiest aspects of Heaven will be freedom from the tendency to sin, a total death to that old nature which has been our plague and woe. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**