

RAISED

Part 13 of Foundations 260. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 20, 2025.

THE WATCHMAKER

I watched a video of a watchmaker.

- He assembled the *Ingenieur Perpetual Calendar 41*.
- Every part is essential.
- In a similar way, the Christian Faith is made up of dozens of parts.
- Each is essential. Easter is an example. Without it, the Faith does not work.
- If no resurrection, Jesus is still dead. If he's still dead, his mission failed, our sins are not forgiven, and God is a liar, etc.

In today's teaching, we'll discover that Easter is essential to the Christian Faith and we should embrace it and live in light of it daily.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8 (CSB)

Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

³ For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.

⁶ Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me.

THREE RESURRECTION INSIGHTS

Insight #1: The risen Jesus was seen - verse 6.

- The resurrection isn't a philosophical thought experiment or a religious metaphor.
- The risen Jesus was seen by hundreds of people, including close friends and family who would have recognized a fraud.

John 20:18 (CSB) Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord! " And she told them what he had said to her.

- At the very least, these people **THOUGHT** they saw the risen Jesus.
- But is it likely that hundreds of people were mistaken? Isn't it more likely that they **DID** see him?
- The Christian Faith is based on the reality of the risen, living, Jesus.

Insight #2: The risen Jesus has always been the message - verses 1-4.

- Christians are proclaimers because we have a message to share. The message is: Jesus died, rose, and is coming again.
 - Jesus died by crucifixion for the forgiveness of sins.
 - Jesus was buried because he really died.
 - Jesus rose from the dead to restore us to God and give us eternal life.
- That message hasn't changed in 2,000 years. Just 50 days after the first Easter Sunday, the apostle Peter preached to a huge crowd in Jerusalem:

Acts 2:24 (CSB) God raised Jesus up, ending the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by death.

- An unchanging message implies that the resurrection is a truthful and essential element of the Christian Faith.

Insight #3: The risen Jesus saves us - verses 1-2.

- The resurrection of Jesus calls on everyone to make a decision: either believe or don't. Move from unbelief to faith.
- The Corinthians "received" the message, had "taken their stand" on it, and were "holding to" it. That means they believed it and trusted their lives and eternity to it. Because they were "being saved" by it.
- The risen Jesus saves (rescues) us from guilt and judgment.
- If Jesus were still in the grave, it would mean that his sacrificial death did not satisfy God's justice, did not removed our guilt, and did not restore us to God. We would be dead in sin and far from God. Paul wrote about it:

1 Corinthians 15:17 (CSB) And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

SO WHAT?

If you put your faith in the risen Jesus, he will raise you up to eternal life now and in the eternal kingdom of God forever.

Verse 22: For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Jesus raises us to life now and in eternity. And he raises us in spiritual bodies:

Verses 42-44: So it is with the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption; 43 sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power; 44 sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body.

This will happen at the end of time when Jesus returns:

Verses 51-52 Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, 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 ...

Pain, sorrow, and death do not have the final word. The living Jesus is living in us, giving us strength for each mountain we climb now and in eternity.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's April 20th teaching and study guide.
- What were the highlights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- Use the S.P.E.C.K. method to reflect on and apply the teaching:
 - S: Sins to confess
 - P: Promises to claim
 - E: Examples to follow
 - C: Commands to obey or Christ to rest in
 - K: Knowledge or insights to consider

Discuss

- In what ways do you see the Christian faith as being "intricately connected," like the parts of a watch? Have you ever experienced a time when one part of your faith felt "missing" or "out of order"? How did that affect your overall spiritual life?
- If someone asked you why you believe Jesus rose from the dead, how would you use the evidence of eyewitnesses in your answer?
- Why is it impossible to have Christianity without the resurrection? How does the resurrection shape the way you share your faith with others?
- How does the promise of resurrection change the way you view suffering, death, or the challenges of this life?

Prayer

- Pray the Cornerstone family would live daily in the assurance of the living Jesus living in them.