

WORD

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures . . .

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3,4

“Dead Man Comes Back to Life!” If you read a story like this, how do you think you would react? Most of us would respond with disbelief. But the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a historical fact that forms the basis of our Christian faith. The Apostle Paul says that if Jesus wasn’t raised from the dead, then our faith is useless or in vain (1 Corinthians 15:14). In resurrecting Jesus, God shows that He is the Creator of life, and He has power over life and death. In this lesson, we will look at the amazing story of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection and its impact in our lives today.

1 Christ died for us.

*Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. **LUKE 23:46***

Jesus’ death on the cross was substitutionary. Jesus took the punishment for sin in our place, so we could be righteous before God. While He did not personally commit any sin, He was made to be sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). Why did Jesus die on our behalf (John 3:16)?

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2 Christ was buried.

⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. **LUKE 23:52,53**

If Jesus did not truly die, then we don’t have assurance that our sins are atoned for. Jesus’ burial proves that He truly died—contrary to some claims that He was just weakened or that His disciples stole His body. In fact, the Pharisees and chief priests made sure that Jesus’ tomb was secure until the third day (Matthew 27:62-66). Why do you think the Bible clearly talks about Jesus’ burial, not just His death and resurrection?

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3 Christ rose from the dead.

⁵And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” **LUKE 24:5-7**

Seeing the empty tomb of Jesus was bewildering for the Galilean women, but the angels reminded them that Jesus was alive! His promise of rising again on the third day was fulfilled. The empty tomb is proof of a bodily resurrection. Jesus’ resurrection also proves that His claims to be the Son of God were true. How does Jesus’ resurrection affect your faith?

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