

Series - Be Wise (20 of 22)
Topic - The Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15)

Date - 3 Nov 2019
Speaker - Pastor Ernie Song

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Forever
 2. Living Hope
 3. In Christ Alone
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WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand the significance of the resurrection of Christ;
2. Realise that Christ needs to come back to make all things new; and
3. Place our hope in the eternal, not that which is temporal.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. The resurrection is the cornerstone of our Christian faith.
2. There is a day coming when Christ will give us new, glorified bodies that will last for eternity.
3. Our hope as Christians is for this glorious future.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

This sermon continues with the Book of 1 Corinthians into chapter 15. Ps Ernie started by saying that very few things in life are certain, except death. There are various worldviews on the afterlife. What is our faith based on? The Christian belief and world view are well summarised in the Apostles Creed, “on the third day He (Christ) rose again from the dead”, and “I believe in ... the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” For Christians, there is hope after death as evidenced by Christ’s resurrection.

In 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Paul spoke on Christ’s resurrection as a historical fact witnessed by many. This is the cornerstone (“of first importance”) of the Gospel. In verses 12-19, Paul addressed the Corinthians’ wrong beliefs – that is, there is no bodily resurrection of

the dead – and the implications of such. For if Christ did not rise, preaching of Christ is in vain and the Apostles are misrepresenting God. Faith is futile and there is no hope for the dead. Indeed, of all men, Christians are most to be pitied.

So, did Christ rise from the dead? The arguments against the resurrection (hallucination, scheming and disciple having stolen the body) cannot really stand up to scrutiny upon closer examination. Besides, there were many contemporaneous eyewitnesses – the disciples, more than five hundred, the sceptics (James, the brother of Jesus, and Thomas), and even, Paul, a persecutor of the early Church. The Apostles were willing to sacrifice their lives for this truth and testified to this fact even to the point of their deaths as martyrs. Furthermore, if the resurrection story was fabricated, it would not make sense, given the patriarchal nature of first century Jewish society, to give women prominence by assigning them the role as primary witnesses. Therefore, Christ did rise!

Why is the resurrection critical to our faith? Sin first separates man from God leading to spiritual death. Sin also results in corruption of the body and physical death follows. Christ is the firstfruits, the evidence of the resurrection. Crucifixion of and with Christ deals with justification, it is only through resurrection that we can get rid of the “old man/nature” and “death” (including sickness) by being sanctified and glorified along with and in Christ. In verses 35-58, Paul taught on how the dead are resurrected. This is further spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and Revelations 21:1-5. What is clear is that as Christians, there is a day coming when Christ will give us new, glorified bodies that will last for eternity. Ps Ernie shared on the grief of having lost his grandfather even before he could hear more of his grandfather’s life journeys. The resurrection gives him hope of a future when this regret can be overcome and there is an eternity for fellowship!

How do knowing the importance of the resurrection affect us? We can be certain that life has meaning. What we do in this life matters. We must fix our lives on those things that are eternal – see v58. There is no fear in death – see 1 Thessalonians 4:13. As Christians, we have the hope of a glorious future – see Romans 8:37-39 – as we are “more than conquerors through Christ”!

Discussion Questions

- 1. Read Matthew 28:1-10 on Matthew’s account of the Resurrection. Discuss about the arguments about the Resurrection being a historical fact. Share some of the reasons why doesn’t everyone believe in the Resurrection. [15 min]**
- 2. What does the Resurrection mean for us, Christians? What do you think of when you reflect on the Resurrection in your personal life? [15 min]**
- 3. In the light of Christ’s Resurrection, should we live our lives differently? What is one thing that you will commit to do in the next one week? [15 min]**

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. RiverLifers to live with hope in a glorious future and remember that this world is not our home.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Cell Outreach

- Start encouraging your members to think of people they want to reach this Christmas.
- Every cell will be planning a Cell Outreach this Christmas. So, they can start thinking of ideas on how they want to do their cell outreach.
- Encourage them not to underestimate what God can do through them!

2. Joining The Family

Sat, 16 Nov | 10am-1pm | Faith Chapel

Becoming a church member means making RiverLife your spiritual home and committing to what God is doing here. This is an invitation to a solid commitment and influence as we follow Christ together and share in God's movements in Singapore.

Sign up online at bit.ly/rlcjoiningthefamily by Sun, 10 Nov. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.