



EASTER SERIES 2024

WHY DID JESUS COME TO DIE? PART 3 TO ENABLE US TO EXPERIENCE OUR OWN RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD

WEEK 2 | ROMANS 6:1-12; 1 COR 15:35-49
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If you gathered with us last Sunday and Friday evening, you know we have been trying to answer the question: Why did Jesus come to die? As we said at the beginning, we cannot answer the depth of that question in three messages. However, I still want to help us understand the why of it all. The "What" that we are referring to is the incarnation, by which Jesus came to earth in human form, lived a sinless life, ultimately willingly laying down His life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. This resulted in His resurrection, by which He came back to life, overcoming sin and death, proving that He accomplished everything necessary to defeat sin and death. So far, two of the "Why" we have covered are to 1) *Prove the depths of God's love for sinners and create a people who are able to love as He does* and 2) *Reverse the curse of sin*. The final thing that we will see today is that **Jesus came to enable us to experience our own resurrection from the dead.**

Romans 5 is where we were Friday evening and saw how the apostle Paul connected how just as Adam's sin resulted in death for everyone, so Jesus' righteous act results in life for everyone who trusts in Him. We left having focused on Jesus' atoning death and what it achieved. Of course, we gather today on Easter Sunday, where the resurrection is our focus because although Jesus died and was buried, He didn't stay dead. After all, sin and death had no power over Him. Paul continues in Romans 6 by showing that just as Jesus had a resurrection from the dead, in Him, we too will have our own resurrection. The Christian life is a resurrection life. The question is, "What does this resurrection life look like?"

Our Resurrection Life will be Both Physical and Spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:35-49)

If you have ever wondered what our resurrected life will look like, you are not alone. While the Bible doesn't paint a complete and total picture, we get glimpses. The first one is that our resurrection will be a physical resurrection with a resurrected body. If our resurrection is truly connected to Jesus' resurrection, we, too, will have a new body just like He did. Remember, although His body was put in a tomb, it didn't stay there. After He was resurrected, He walked, talked, ate, and could be touched. If we are to share in the same kind of resurrection, then we, too, will have a new body.

There have always been those who doubt the resurrection of the dead. Even in Paul's time, he had to combat those who said there was no such thing as a resurrection for believers. In 1 Corinthians 15, we get the best defense and explanation of the significance of the resurrection in one place. Paul not only argues for Jesus' resurrection, explaining the centrality of the resurrection to the gospel but also uses it to help us understand our own resurrection more fully. In verses 20-28, he clearly states that Christ's resurrection guarantees our resurrection. Later, in verses 35-49, he answers questions pertaining to our physical resurrection body.

It seems the way that Paul is explaining this is to an objector in the church who is teaching there is no resurrection from the dead. There are several things we can take away from his response. *The first is that the resurrected body will not simply be a human body come back to life but a body of a different kind of glory or character (vv.35-42a).* Paul explains that just as there are different types of flesh on earth and different types of splendor, we will possess a new body with a new make-up. We see this in Jesus, who was recognizable and had similar physical attributes yet was also clearly different. While He was able to eat, walk, talk, and be touched as before, He could also move through walls and react differently than He did in His original earthly body.

The second is that our resurrected body will not be subject to corruption, dishonor, and weakness as our original body was but instead will be incorruptible, glorified, and powerful in a new spiritual body (vv.42-44). Because sin has been defeated and death no longer reigns, we will have a body free from sin's corruption, made new in the image of the victorious Jesus. This means our future resurrection body will not be subject to sickness, disease, or death. This is important because while there were people raised to life in Jesus' day, they all later died again. We need a body that will not only live again but also one that will not die again.

The final thing we see is that just as our original body was made from earth for this earth, our new body will be made by heaven for heaven (vv.47-49). The first body God gave man was perfect for this earth; however, it was corrupted because of sin. If we are to truly be with Christ forever in the new heaven and new earth, we need a body made for it. Christ's first body was made for Him to come to earth, but His resurrection body was made for heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of God. If we are to be with Him, we need a body made for that. This is what God gives us.

Our Resurrection Life Begins Today (Romans 6:1-12)

Everything we have discussed so far speaks to our future resurrection, but I don't want us to end thinking that Jesus' resurrection only speaks to our future resurrection. The bulk of what Paul talks about in Romans 6 is our current resurrection life. It is about being raised to walk in a new life free from sin's power today. Just as sin and death had no power over Jesus, now that we are in Him, they no longer have to have power over us. We are free and able to live a new life. In verses 5-6 of Romans 5, Paul explains that just as we were united with Christ in His death, we are united with Christ in His resurrection. This means that as Jesus died, we died to sin, and as Jesus lives, we, too, live a new life free from the power of sin. The old us is gone; behold, we are made new.

It is imperative for us to understand that now that we are new in Christ, we should no longer live according to the way we used to live. We should have new desires and a new power to live differently. We should no longer be content living in sin but should seek now to live a life of righteousness in the power of Jesus Christ. To identify with Christ as Savior and Lord, yet still be content to live in a life of sin, goes against the very life that Jesus died and rose again to give us.

