

# Chico Alliance Church

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## **“The Incredible Resurrection of Christ”**

### **Selected Passages**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

I will attempt to answer the question, “OK! Jesus rose from the dead. So what?”

The fact that Abraham Lincoln was shot and buried has little personal significance to me. The resurrection of Jesus stands at the core of the gospel; God’s message of good news. Paul succinctly identifies the core of the gospel.

*Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel*

*which I preached to you,*

*which also you received,*

*in which also you stand,*

*by which also you are saved,*

*if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.*

God uses the preaching of the gospel to reach people. The Gospel has to be personally received. The Gospel provides stability. Embracing the Gospel saves us. Paul then specifies the foundational elements of the good news. He affirms the source of these elements as Jesus.

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received,*

*that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

*and that He was buried,*

*and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

*and that He appeared to Cephas,*

*then to the twelve.*

*After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time,*

*most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;*

*then He appeared to James,*

*then to all the apostles;*

*and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 1 Corinthians 15:1-*

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The message flows from events prophesied in Scripture. Jesus actually died for our sins followed by an actual burial. God raised Him bodily from the dead followed by a variety of physical appearances including Paul Himself.

#### **The resurrection directly relates to our justification.**

Paul, in his letter to Romans appealed to Abraham’s example of faith.

*Now not for his sake (Abraham) only was it written that righteousness was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom righteousness will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*

*Rom 4:23-25*

Our forgiveness flows from the fact that Jesus died for OUR sins. Forgiveness is not enough. If you have no viable means of support or income and someone forgives all your debt, what is likely to happen? You need more than someone to pay your debt. Unless you have some means of income you will be back in the same spot as you were before. The same is true when it comes to the sin problem. If we have no viable means of banking some sort of positive righteousness, forgiveness of our righteousness deficit will be only temporary. In order to enjoy reconciliation with a holy AND righteous God we need positive righteousness balance in our

moral account. Since our righteousness is insufficient tender, we need a source outside of ourselves. The term Justification describes what God does on our behalf through the resurrection of Jesus.

*He made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

*I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from Law-keeping, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:8-11*

### **The resurrection provides a visual picture concerning our spiritual resurrection.**

*We have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Romans 6:4-7*

### **The resurrection validates the claims of Scripture and Jesus Himself.**

*He was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, Romans 1:4*

Old Testament prophecies foretold both the death and resurrection of Messiah.

Jesus specifically predicted His own death and resurrection.

*Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken. John 2:19-22*

*And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. Mark 8:31*

### **The resurrection validates the object of our faith.**

*For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*

*If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.*

Since He has been raised our faith is not in vain and our message is true.

### **The resurrection guarantees a perpetual intercession by Jesus on our behalf.**

*but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore, He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:24-25*

*who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also (constantly) intercedes for us. Romans 8:34*

**The resurrection enables present and future hope.**

*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, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5*

*If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. 1 Corinthians 15:19*

**The resurrection provides a preview of our immortal resurrection body.**

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26*

*As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. John 6:57*

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. Philippians 3:20-21*

*Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 1 Cor 15:50-55*

If Jesus did not come back from the dead, He lied.

If Jesus did not come back from the dead, we preach a lie.

If Jesus did not come back from the dead, we must bear our own sins.

If Jesus did not come back from the dead, we have no mediator.

If Jesus did not come back from the dead, we have no intercessor.

If Jesus did not come back from the dead the object of our faith is faulty.

If Jesus did not come back from the dead, He did not go to heaven and is not coming back again.

If Jesus did not come back from the dead, He is not preparing a place for us in His Father's house.

If Jesus did not come back from the dead, everything we trusted falls apart.

The fact is, Jesus DID rise from the dead as the Scriptures predicted attested by those who personally witnessed it. Christ the Lord is risen to day Alleluia. He is the only solid foundation for our faith.

He is our only hope for eternal life.

The Bible is crystal clear.

*"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 3:36*

*And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 1 John 5:11-12*

There is only one source for true life.

*Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:5-6*

You have heard the gospel **PREACHED**.

It will not have the effects we have just reviewed unless you **RECEIVE** it.

If you do, you will have a firm foundation on which you can **STAND**.

If you do you will experience **SALVATION**.