

Easter 2018

April 1, 2018 | mediaatvictory.com

“I am he that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and I have the keys of hell and of death.” - *Jesus Christ, Revelation 1:18*

Why is the resurrection is so important?

I Corinthians 15:17 – ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.

All of Christianity hinges on the veracity of the resurrection. Either Jesus was who he said he was or was a fraud and liar. You can believe in the resurrection.

I Corinthians 15:3-9 – ³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was RAISED FROM THE DEAD on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was SEEN by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he APPEARED to James and later by all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, he APPEARED to me. ⁹ For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.

13 of his 14 closest followers willingly died for what THEY WITNESSED, not what THEY BELIEVED.

“I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison and ultimately 11 of the 12 were put to death. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world-and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.” - *Chuck Colson*

Believing the resurrection isn't enough.

James 2:19 (NIV) – ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.

You can receive and experience it today.

John 1:12 (NIV) – ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right and power to become children of God

Jesus only comes by invitation.

John 3:1-7 (NIV) – ¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³ In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." ⁴ "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" ⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

John 11:25,26 (NIV) – ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"