

The resurrection is actually God's way of giving us a receipt, stamping it "Paid in Full" across all of history.

If He wasn't raised then his death was just a noble example of how to suffer. But if He was raised that proves his death accomplished something.

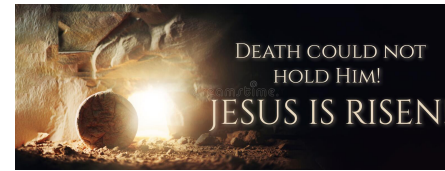
But if He has been raised from the dead, then He is not just a good teacher; **He is the Son of God.**

Jesus was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 1:4*

Community Group Questions:

1. How would you answer someone who finds the Cross offensive?
2. What keeps you from boasting in the Cross alone as Paul did?
3. How does the resurrection of Jesus prove the purpose of His death?

Sierra Community Church April 8th and 9th, 2023- Dan Wilvers



How Can We Boast in the Cross of Christ?

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, Chapter 6: *As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Paul always taught, *"Believe in Christ, and be saved, and then learn to obey God's commands in your life."*

These false teachers in Galatia were saying, *"Believe in Christ, and obey the Law of Moses then you'll be saved."*

Paul would write: We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. Galatians 2:16

Which means:

God accepts us based on what Christ did; not on what we do.

I. The Cross is Offensive

Those who are trying to force you to (obey the law in order to be saved) want to look good to others. *They don't want to be persecuted for teaching that the cross of Christ alone can save. ...* Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died. Galatians 6:12,14

What is the offense of the cross? Jesus' death on the cross, teaches: *Your sins are so bad that Jesus had to die for them.*

It's only through the cross of Christ you can come to God.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6

- **Forgiveness is expensive.**

For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. Romans 3:25

So the Bible says that God, "...sent forth his Son who knew no sin to become sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus didn't come to pay a fine. He paid with his life.
He substituted His life for ours.

Jesus absolutely understood he came to us.

¹⁸*No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. John 10:18*

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

If anything, aside from the death of Christ was sufficient to save us God would have never put forth his Son to suffer as he did.

The story of His death is absolute nonsense otherwise.



Tim Keller Author

"The whole point of Jesus' death makes no sense unless it's the only hope we have."

II. So what does it actually mean to boast in the cross?

Paul is saying your primary sense of worth comes from Christ dying for you, to save you because he loves you.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

Which means while we were at our absolute worst,
God came for us.

III. How do you know Jesus really died for your sins?

Where's the proof of that claim?

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. ⁴He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

All credible theologians agree Paul wrote this within about 20 years after the death of Christ. It's similar to writing today about something that happened in 2003.

For Paul to make a public statement that 500 people saw Jesus Christ after his death, all at one time? That means there were people around who actually were claiming that. Paul could have gotten away with such a public statement unless there really were hundreds of people who had seen Christ.

This explains the reason Christianity ever got off the ground was a bunch of people said, *"It happened."*

How do you know he paid for it all? Because he was sprung.
You know he paid the penalty because He's alive.