



# Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

## THE RIGHT VIEW OF THE RESURRECTION

**KEY PASSAGE:** Luke 24:1-12 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24:13-35 | John 2:19-21; 3:16; 10:27-28; 14:2-3,6; 20:25 | 1 Corinthians 15:11-16, 18 | 2 Corinthians 5:8 | Ephesians 2:8 | Hebrews 9:27; 13:5

### SUMMARY:

**Many people try to minimize the importance of the resurrection.**

They prefer to think of Jesus as a good man or wise teacher. These individuals usually deny that He rose from the dead. Some of them even consider themselves “Christians.”

However, our faith is nothing without the resurrection. It demonstrated Jesus’ power over death, confirmed His divinity, and provided a powerful example of His ability to keep His word. If Christ didn’t rise from the grave, we have no hope of reuniting with believing loved ones who have passed on. More importantly, unless Jesus triumphed over death, our faith is worthless. And as Paul wrote, “We are of all men most to be pitied” (1 Cor. 15: 17, 19). The Lord’s resurrection is critical to the gospel message and vitally important to Christianity.

### SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

**The disciples initially responded to the resurrection from a human, rational perspective, rather than a godly one.**

Many people today doubt that Jesus rose from the dead. You may find it surprising that the disciples didn’t believe Christ would return to life either. Although the Lord had told them He would be killed and rise three days later, they failed to understand. His followers thought the crucifixion was the end. Even the women who visited the grave after the Sabbath came prepared to anoint

a *dead* body. Later, when the women tried to explain to the believers that Christ was alive, their words “appeared to [the disciples] as nonsense” (Luke 24:11). Because Jesus’ followers didn’t believe He would come back to life, they had no ability to comprehend the eyewitness report of the empty tomb.

Peter, who ran to the grave after hearing the women’s story, simply marveled at the vacant burial place (Luke 24:12). I believe he didn’t yet realize that Jesus had risen. Also, the two men on the road to Emmaus didn’t even recognize Christ at first (Luke 24:13-35). The disciple Thomas told his friends that he would have to touch the wounds on Jesus’ hands and side before he would believe their good news (John 20:25). All of these followers had seen the Savior perform miracles, listened to his sermons, and watched His life for years. But the Scriptures give no record of even a single one waiting outside His tomb for His resurrection. They underestimated the power of God.

**What difference does it make if we believe in the resurrection?**

The biblical concept of the afterlife includes the resurrection of all people and then the judgment. But some people want to avoid any accountability for their actions. As a result, they convince themselves that when this life ends, they will cease to exist. This perspective enabled some within the church at Corinth to justify sins such as immorality, incest, and drunkenness. The apostle Paul challenged them, “But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ

has been raised; . . . and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, . . . your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied” (1 Cor. 15:13-14, 17-19).

Paul’s words are no less true today. Our entire faith rests on the resurrection. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then Bible study, tithing, witnessing, and all other spiritual practices are a waste of time. But the fact is He *did* rise from the grave. Although Roman soldiers guarded the tomb, they could not keep Christ’s body inside. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers and then ascended to heaven. And now, the moment we accept Him as Savior, the Holy Spirit resides within us, giving us the power to live a victorious Christian life.

Those who don’t believe Jesus rose from the dead must rely on themselves. That may work during this life, but I’ve seen many people have a change of heart on their deathbed. They realize the things they depended on—talent, popularity, or possessions—are worthless. Even those who were confident that death would bring oblivion often have last-minute doubts when facing their own mortality and God’s judgment (Heb. 9:27).

### **What is the evidence that Christ is risen?**

When Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended to heaven and offered Himself as the only adequate sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Right now, He sits at the Father’s right hand and makes intercession for you and me. Not only did Christ die for us, but He is living eternally for us. He promises never to leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5).

When people ask us how we know Jesus is alive, we can point to a clear conscience. We also have the assurance that our sins are forgiven. And in the midst of life’s challenges, you and I have supernatural confidence and peace. I can personally testify that in more than 60 years of walking with the Lord, He has proved to be sufficient in every circumstance of life.

### **What if you don’t believe Christ rose from the dead?**

Jesus predicted that He would be killed and then rise within three days (John 2:19-21). If you don’t believe He was physically resurrected, you are essentially saying the Lord is a liar. And if He lied about that, how much confidence can we place in His other promises? Those who deny the resurrection are rejecting Jesus.

If you don’t accept that Christ rose from the grave, then you have no hope of reuniting in heaven with your loved ones who have passed on to glory. Death is the end. In contrast, those of us who believe in the resurrection have the promise that if we are “absent from the body . . . [we are] at home with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8). At death, we go immediately into the presence of God to live with Him. We can look forward to living forever with our friends and family who accepted the Father’s gift of forgiveness during their lifetimes (Eph. 2:8).

### **CONCLUSION:**

When you come to the moment of death, will you have peace and confidence, knowing that you will soon be with the Lord? If you are not yet a believer, my prayer is that you won’t wait to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. By grace, through faith, receive His gift of forgiveness for your sins. Then the moment you pass from this life, you will go to spend eternity with Him.

Without the resurrection, Christianity would lose its unique and powerful message. The gospel promises us that the Son of God came to earth to die for our sins—*and* that He rose on the third day, triumphant over the grave. Because He is risen, you and I can face both life and death with confidence, knowing He is always with us. ✨



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