

Series - Be Wise (20 of 22)

Date - 3 Nov 2019

Topic - The Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15)

Speaker - Pastor Ernie Song

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Forever
 2. Living Hope
 3. In Christ Alone
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WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand the significance of the resurrection of Christ;
2. Realise that Christ needs to come back to make all things new; and
3. Place our hope in the eternal, not that which is temporal.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. The resurrection is the cornerstone of our Christian faith.
2. There is a day coming when Christ will give us new, glorified bodies that will last for eternity.
3. Our hope as Christians is for this glorious future.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

This sermon continues with the Book of 1 Corinthians into chapter 15. Ps Ernie started by saying that very few things in life are certain, except death. There are various worldviews on the afterlife. What is our faith based on? The Christian belief and world view are well summarised in the Apostles Creed, “on the third day He (Christ) rose again from the dead”, and “I believe in ... the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” For Christians, there is hope after death as evidenced by Christ’s resurrection.

In 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Paul spoke on Christ’s resurrection as a historical fact witnessed by many. This is the cornerstone (“of first importance”) of the Gospel. In verses 12-19, Paul addressed the Corinthians’ wrong beliefs – that is, there is no bodily resurrection of

the dead – and the implications of such. For if Christ did not rise, preaching of Christ is in vain and the Apostles are misrepresenting God. Faith is futile and there is no hope for the dead. Indeed, of all men, Christians are most to be pitied.

So, did Christ rise from the dead? The arguments against the resurrection (hallucination, scheming and disciple having stolen the body) cannot really stand up to scrutiny upon closer examination. Besides, there were many contemporaneous eyewitnesses – the disciples, more than five hundred, the sceptics (James, the brother of Jesus, and Thomas), and even, Paul, a persecutor of the early Church. The Apostles were willing to sacrifice their lives for this truth and testified to this fact even to the point of their deaths as martyrs. Furthermore, if the resurrection story was fabricated, it would not make sense, given the patriarchal nature of first century Jewish society, to give women prominence by assigning them the role as primary witnesses. Therefore, Christ did rise!

Why is the resurrection critical to our faith? Sin first separates man from God leading to spiritual death. Sin also results in corruption of the body and physical death follows. Christ is the firstfruits, the evidence of the resurrection. Crucifixion of and with Christ deals with justification, it is only through resurrection that we can get rid of the “old man/nature” and “death” (including sickness) by being sanctified and glorified along with and in Christ. In verses 35-58, Paul taught on how the dead are resurrected. This is further spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and Revelations 21:1-5. What is clear is that as Christians, there is a day coming when Christ will give us new, glorified bodies that will last for eternity. Ps Ernie shared on the grief of having lost his grandfather even before he could hear more of his grandfather’s life journeys. The resurrection gives him hope of a future when this regret can be overcome and there is an eternity for fellowship!

How do knowing the importance of the resurrection affect us? We can be certain that life has meaning. What we do in this life matters. We must fix our lives on those things that are eternal – see v58. There is no fear in death – see 1 Thessalonians 4:13. As Christians, we have the hope of a glorious future – see Romans 8:37-39 – as we are “more than conquerors through Christ”!

Discussion Questions

- 1. Read Matthew 28:1-10 on Matthew’s account of the Resurrection. Discuss about the arguments about the Resurrection being a historical fact. Share some of the reasons why doesn’t everyone believe in the Resurrection. [15 min]**

Leader’s Notes:

This is an ice-breaking and recap question. Ps Ernie shared on the arguments against and for the Resurrection, ending with the conclusion that the Resurrection was a historical fact and cannot be sensibly denied. This is a good opportunity for Cell members to recap and affirm the cornerstone of our Christian faith.

The following resources give good summaries of the case for the Resurrection:

- a. Lee Strobel: 4 Compelling Reasons to Believe the Resurrection Actually Happened (<https://relevantmagazine.com/current/lee-strobel-4-compelling-reasons-believe-resurrection-actually-happened/>);*
- b. Isn’t believing in the resurrection ridiculous? (https://www.christianityexplored.org/Articles/469279/CE_ORG/Tough_Questions/Transcripts/06_Isnt_believing_in_the.aspx)*

The following video link has a short discussion on why doesn't everyone believe in the Resurrection by Gary Habermas?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbUGtCDZ_kE&feature=youtu.be

The point is that many people may not have the heart condition to accept this Gospel truth – see Matthew 13:1-23 on the Parable of the Sower. It takes the Holy Spirit to convict the heart of man towards the things of God.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

The Leader can sum up the arguments for the Resurrection for having taken place (see the above synopsis on the main points) and conclude that the evidence for the resurrection are compelling and irrefutable before moving on to discuss on what the Resurrection means for us, Christians.

2. What does the Resurrection mean for us, Christians? What do you think of when you reflect on the Resurrection in your personal life? [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a reflect and relate question. Firstly, Christ's Resurrection assures our future resurrection. Because Jesus both died and rose again, we will be raised like Him – see 1 Corinthians 15:20. Secondly, God is in control of history and His Word can be trusted. Thirdly, Christ's Resurrection gives us power to live the Christian life – see Romans 8:11. 2 Corinthians 5:17 promises that “all things have become new” in Christ. God can give us the power to live a victorious Christian life. Leaders can encourage members to personalize what the Resurrection means to each person, e.g. grieving for the loss of a loved one, suffering through trials and sickness, etc.

In the resource (<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/six-gifts-of-the-resurrection>), John Piper listed the following gifts of the Resurrection:

- a. We are forgiven for our sins
- b. Our faith is well-founded
- c. The Apostles preach what is true
- d. We are to be envied
- e. Those who have fallen asleep are alive
- f. We have the greatest news in all the world.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

The Leader can wrap up the discussion of this question by pointing out that as Christians, we have hope in the future and not just the present. A day is coming where all things will be made new. We therefore need to respond to this truth.

3. In the light of Christ's Resurrection, should we live our lives differently? What is one thing that you will commit to do in the next one week? [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a response question. We can be certain that life has meaning and that we must live according to God's will. Our hope must be in things that have eternal value, not just on things that may be temporal. Leaders can ask members on whether they can commit to changes they should be making on their patterns of thinking, lifestyle & habits, and

the purpose of life. For example, do we have loved ones who are not yet saved?

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing The Discussion)

Are there people around us in need of the Gospel? As Christians, we have the good news and there is a great need and urgency to share! At the end of the discussion, Leaders can pray through these commitments and ask the Holy Spirit to guide members to trust the Holy Spirit to empower them.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. RiverLifers to live with hope in a glorious future and remember that this world is not our home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Cell Outreach

- Start encouraging your members to think of people they want to reach this Christmas.
- Every cell will be planning a Cell Outreach this Christmas. So, they can start thinking of ideas on how they want to do their cell outreach.
- Encourage them not to underestimate what God can do through them!

2. Joining The Family

Sat, 16 Nov | 10am-1pm | Faith Chapel

Becoming a church member means making RiverLife your spiritual home and committing to what God is doing here. This is an invitation to a solid commitment and influence as we follow Christ together and share in God's movements in Singapore.

Sign up online at bit.ly/rlcjoiningthefamily by Sun, 10 Nov. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.