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## We Believe God Saves

**1 Corinthians 15:14-19** *And 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. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

Unbelievers through the ages; people who hold to other religions or worldviews have questioned Christianity by questioning the resurrection of Jesus.

They all question how any religion could be based on a God who died. A God who suffered a criminal's death. And then that same God came back to human life, and lives even today.

Other religions make pilgrimages to their founder's grave site  
We have no place to look for, because we have no need to look

All four Gospels speak of the resurrection.

The rest of the NT is written under the assumption that Jesus lives and is our reigning Savior who was and is the head of what was then the newly formed Church.

Unlike Lazarus and others brought back to life, Jesus rose from the grave to live a new kind of human life.

A human body no longer subject to weakness, aging, death or decay  
A human body that would live forever, eternally

**1 Corinthians 15:53** *For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*

But after the resurrection, Jesus still had a human body, He was recognizable.

**1 Corinthians 15:6** *Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.*

After the resurrection, Jesus continued to do normal human things, however now with no limitations

**Acts 10:39-41** *And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.*

Jesus ate and drank

And He continued to bear His scars. Those scars could be seen and even touched

**John 20:27** *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.*

Jesus earned for us a future life that is like His own

**1 Peter 1:3** *all who put their faith and hope in the risen Jesus have been "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

While our bodies have not yet been transformed, our spirits have already been renewed through His resurrection power

While only in part, we can still live the lives we were supposed to live

We have been made dead to sin, so we can even now live dead to sin

**Romans 6:9-11, 14** *We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus...For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under the laws but under grace.*

We are now alive to God in Christ Jesus

We are granted power from the indwelling Holy Spirit to do the work Jesus commissioned His Church to do

**Acts 1:8** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Because of Jesus, we are "justified." We have right standing before God

**Romans 4:23-25** *But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

When God raised Jesus from the dead, God was affirming that what Jesus had accomplished on our behalf was accepted as payment in full

The penalty for our sin was paid, so Jesus didn't have to stay dead any longer

Because His work was complete

**Hebrews 1:3** *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

And Jesus continues to sit and reign over all Creation, over all people and things

**1 Corinthians 6:14** *And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.*

We will be raised to new, eternal life with the same power that raised Jesus from death

We will experience a resurrection of our own

When Jesus returns, we will all be changed

**1 Corinthians 15:51** *Behold! I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we shall all be changed*

40 days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven

**Luke 24:50-51** *And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.*

And there was only one plausible response from those who saw this...

**Luke 24:52-53** *And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God.*

Jesus was exalted

Jesus received the honor and glory never before received by One who was both God and man

**Revelation 5:13** *And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"*

Jesus now reigns over all Creation, until He has put all of His enemies under His submission

**1 Corinthians 15:25-26** *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

This is the “Already, and Not Yet.” Jesus has already won the war. But we live in a time where the battles are still being fought, where the enemy still thinks there’s a chance. The enemy knows he’s lost, but has not yet surrendered

Jesus’s resurrection tells us what will eventually happen to us

And Jesus’s ascension tells us where we will go...into God’s presence

We wait, eagerly

**Romans 8:19, 23** *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God...And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

Like His, we will eventually live in a perfect world with perfect, immortal human bodies

This is the hope for a Christian, given the faith to believe God’s promises to be true

This is why we Christians can live in “grace and peace.”