

Five Words

Words hold immense power. They shape our realities, heal or harm, and can alter the course of history.

Joe Barnett recently highlighted five words that make a difference – an eternal difference.

Those five words are: **“Christ has indeed been raised”** (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Those five words come from “the great resurrection chapter” of the Bible in which the Apostle Paul affirms the reality of the resurrection of Christ from the dead and its implications for all of humanity.

Observe the rest of the verse containing these life-altering words: “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep [i.e. died]” (1 Corinthians 15:20). Think of “firstfruits” as “the first of more to come.”

Because Christ was raised from the dead, all of the dead will be raised when He returns. Jesus said, “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29).

Paul writes of the implications of the resurrection for Christians: “In Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him” (1 Corinthians 15:22–23).

The Good News (the Gospel) is: “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Our sins condemn us, but through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, we can be forgiven of our sins and receive the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23).

“Christ has indeed been raised.” Joe Barnett states, “Those five words make all the difference, for eternity and also for today. No matter what difficulties assault you — and there will be some — you have ‘a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never, perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you’ (1 Peter 1:3–4).”

That “living hope” and eternal inheritance belong to those who have accepted Christ’s offer of salvation on His terms.

God will forgive sin and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Read Romans 6:3-4 to see how one appropriates salvation in Christ by essentially “reenacting” the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus in baptism.

Then, as the Christian continues to walk in the light of His Word, the atoning blood that Jesus shed in His death will continue to cleanse that person from sin (1 John 1:7-9).

“Christ has indeed been raised.” These are life-altering words that can impact you eternally. They convey truth, and part of that truth is that if you die before Christ returns, you will be also be raised from the dead to a resurrection of condemnation or to a resurrection of eternal life in heaven. Your destiny depends on how you respond to the offer of salvation through Jesus.

-- David A. Sargent

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