

1 Corinthians 15:29-34

How Does the Resurrection Change Your Life?

Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? Why are we in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (1 Corinthians 15:29-34 ESV)

I went skydiving

I went rocky mountain climbing

I went two point seven seconds on a bull named Fu Man Chu

And I loved deeper

And I spoke sweeter

And I gave forgiveness I'd been denyin'

And he said, Someday I hope you get the chance

To live like you were dyin'

(Tim McGraw, *Live Like You Are Dying*)

The truth of the resurrection serves as motivation for present action.

I. To Live Consistent with our Baptism

"Now, if there is no resurrection, what will be accomplished by those who get baptized because of what they heard...how our dead will be raised? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people undergoing baptism on account of them?" (Ciampa, Rosner)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4 ESV)

Each of us should see our baptism as a calling to live as new people in Christ, not as those still trapped in sin and death.

II. To Walk with Wisdom

III. To Sacrifice this Present Life

How much did Paul believe that he would be raised from the dead? And to what extent was he willing to live out what he believed?

He was so confident in the truth of the resurrection, that he was willing to lose his present life - because he knew he had a better one in the future.

A. Spiritual Sacrifice

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"
(Luke 9:23-25 ESV)

"The saddest symptom about many so-called Christians is the utter absence of anything like conflict and fight against spiritual apathy in their Christianity. They eat, they drink, they dress, they work, they amuse themselves, they get money, they spend money, they go through a brief round of formal religious services once or twice every week. But of the great spiritual warfare – its watchings and strugglings, its agonies and anxieties, its battles and contests – of all things they appear to know nothing at all. Let us take care that this case is not our own." ~ J.C. Ryle

B. Physical Sacrifice

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose" - Jim Eliot