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THE SON HAS RISEN
1 Corinthians 15:1-28

INTRODUCTION :

CHRIST IS RISEN! WILL HE BE IN CHURCH TODAY?

As a man was driving his children to church on Easter Sunday, he was trying to explain that Easter was when we celebrate Jesus raising from the dead. From the back seat his three-year-old piped up, "Will He be in church today?"

The truth is whenever the church gathers, our Lord said :

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

How do we know He is here? It's because He rose from the dead.

Pray

I. PROOF

- **Scriptures predicted it**

1 Corinthians 15: 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

There are a number of Bible verses that showed that Christ will rise again from the dead even before He was born.

Isaiah predicted that Jesus Christ, the Son of God will die on the cross for our sins but then He will not remain dead. **Isaiah was written 700 years before Jesus Christ was born.**

*Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;*

*8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
And as for His generation, who considered
That He was cut off out of the land of the living*

*10 But the Lord was pleased
To crush Him, putting Him to grief;
If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,
He will see His offspring,
He will prolong His days,*

Even Jesus said that when He dies, He will be raised again from the dead after three days.

John 2: 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

- Several people saw him

Note : When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, several people saw him for 7 weeks while He was here.

1 Corinthians 15: 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

Remember, these twelve were the apostles were cowards and they ran away when Jesus was taken away. But there was 180 degree turn and all of them died a gruesome martyr's death because of their faith. Why? **They saw Jesus.**

6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

More than 500 people saw Jesus at the same time. How can you deny that? Paul was so sure about it during that time that he *said of whom the greater part remain to the present*, which means, he is saying to the people at that time, you can ask them yourself.

Think : If the disciples invented it, why would Paul ask the Corinthians to ask the people who saw Jesus again?

Remember these same people were willing to suffer and be persecuted because of their faith. Why? **They saw Jesus.**

7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

James was the half-brother of Jesus. James even thought that Jesus Christ was crazy and did not believe in Him. (ref : Mt 13:55; Mk 6:3)

Mark 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

John 7:5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

And yet when James wrote a letter to the churches, here's how he introduced himself:

James 1: 1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Will you call your brother, Lord and say to your brother, I am your servant?

Why the change of heart of James? **He saw Jesus.**

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Remember Paul wanted to kill those who follow Christ and was even there approving the stoning of Stephen, the first martyr for Christ. (Acts 7)

But there was a complete turnaround. He was Christianity's greatest missionary and wrote several letters about the Christian faith and he died because of his faith in Christ. Why? **He saw Jesus.**

Sir Lionel Luckloo, one of history's most successful defense attorney. His name was even in the Guinness Book of World Records because he won 245 cases in a row. The second best was 70. At the age of 63, he was looking for a real challenge and decided to investigate if the resurrection was true. After years of painstaking investigation, here's what he wrote :
"I have spent more than forty-two years as a defense trial lawyer in many parts of the world. I say unequivocally the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt!"

II. SIGNIFICANCE

- **Shows the reality of our faith**

1 Corinthians 15: 12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

How would you know that the God of the Bible is the true God and Jesus Christ is truly Lord?
The proof is in His resurrection. He was the only one who rose from the dead!

Romans 1: Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

AFRICAN MUSLIM CONVERSION (Show picture) A story is told of an African Muslim who became a Christian. His friends asked, "Why have you become a Christian?"
He answered, "Well, it's like this. Suppose you were going down the road and suddenly the road forked in two directions, and you didn't know which way to go. There at the fork were two men, one dead and one alive—who would you ask which way to go?"

- **Our sins are truly forgiven**

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

But since Christ rose from the dead, we know that His death on the cross is true. Because the Bible says when Jesus Christ was on the cross, all our sins were laid on Him.

2 Corinthians 5: 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*Isaiah 53 : 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Now if our Lord did not rise from the dead, it means he is only an ordinary man just like you and me. But because He rose from the dead, we know He is truly the Son of God who is able to pay the penalty of our sin and make us righteous before God.

Romans 4: 24 It (righteousness) shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

So what do you need to do? (Evangelistic)

Romans 10: 9.. if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

- **Death is not final**

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

The Message Paraphrase :

But the truth is that Christ has been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries.

21-28 There is a nice symmetry in this: Death initially came by a man, and resurrection from death came by a man. Everybody dies in Adam; everybody comes alive in Christ. But we have to wait our turn: Christ is first, then those with him at his Coming,

In short, since we know and are sure the Jesus Christ rose from the dead. One day when we pass away, we know death is not final. If you are a believer in Christ, we know, we will be with Him. And one day, we will be given new bodies. **What kind of bodies will we have?**

- **A body that will not die.**

1 Corinthians 15: 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

- **A body that will not sin.**

43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory.

- **A body with no defects, deformities or disabilities (will not get weak or sick or get hurt)**

It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

I WILL NOT WALK. I WILL FLY. There is one church I used to attend where there is a person who was born with deformed legs and was confined to a wheelchair ever since he was young. The pastor was talking about one of these days, we will be getting new bodies and the pastor pointed to the person on the wheelchair and he said, "That time, you will be able to walk." The young man replied, "You're wrong pastor, I will not walk...I will fly."

- **Everything will be under His feet**

24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

Our Lord Jesus Christ says when He rose from the dead, He then ascended to heaven and He said, one day He will come back again to reign forever and ever.

So if you are worried about what's happening in this world - ISIS, North Korea, Russia, diseases, earthquakes and etc. One day when our Lord comes back, everything will be under his feet.

He will be the one ruling over all the earth.

Revelation 17: 14 These will make war with the Lamb (Jesus), and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 19: 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

*KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.*

One of these days, when Jesus comes back to finally reign, we will be reigning with Him.

Story : A bright young girl of fifteen was suddenly cast upon a bed of suffering, completely paralyzed on one side and nearly blind. She heard the family doctor say to her parents as they stood by the bedside: "She has seen her best days, poor child!"

"No, doctor," she exclaimed, "my best days are yet to come, when I shall see the King in His beauty."

CONCLUSION :

Now that we know that the Son Has Risen, **what shall we do?**

RISE AND SHINE

Rise up to any situation and shine the light of Jesus Christ to others.

Examples :

- **Live pure and holy lives.** (your speech, do not slander, do not talk behind people's back because Jesus is alive, He can see and hear what you are saying and you will take that to account. Say NO to sin. Rise up to the situation. And shine.)

1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example (shine) for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

- **Serve others. (Show others that Jesus is alive)**

The Bible says to take care of those in need (James 1:27)

Don't wait for others to start serving, **RISE UP TO THE SITUATION AND TAKE INITIATIVE TO SERVE AND SHINE THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO THOSE WHOM YOU ARE SERVING**

- **Love others even those who have hurt you.**

Matthew 5: 43-47 "You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer,

If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

Sometimes, I'm embarrassed by the attitude of people who call themselves Christians and yet cannot even forgive other people. They call themselves Christians but when they are hurt, they make sure they hurt back.

RISE AND SHINE!

- **Love and trust God.**

When we worry, we are like other people who have doesn't know God.

Matthew 6: 31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

Why can you trust Him because you know HE IS ALIVE!

How do you show someone you love them? You prioritize them.

33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

RISE AND SHINE. SHOW THAT JESUS CHRIST IS TRULY ALIVE IN YOU. RISE AND SHINE FOR THE SON HAS RISEN.

S.G.D.