

Topic: Concluding Act
Text: **1 Corinthians 15:12-18, 26 (NIV)**
Theme: “A rolled stone and an empty tomb
conclude God’s plan of salvation”

Introduction

- Watching a blockbuster movie with an ending that is unsuitable with our taste is frustrating.
- How devastating would it be if the Gospel simply ended with the Messiah's burial? His body remained in the tomb; His Spirit came back to His Father.
- This kind of doctrine is absurd and absolutely wrong, you may think! Without rising Jesus from the dead, God's plan of salvation is in vain. It was His resurrection that made the difference.
- Preachers have said so much about His death, but have taught too little about Him returning to life. No wonder Michelangelo, the Italian painter, was surprised to see the many paintings of the dying Saviour.
- Yes, Jesus remained in the tomb only for two days, but had conquered death thereafter. Just as His death is an integral part of our salvation, let us always commend God for an empty tomb—He finished the work He started.

I. THE RESURRECTION COMPLETES THE GOSPEL

V14a And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless...

A. *The gospel (or Good News) is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).*

1. Through the gospel, God's power is manifested. “Power” in Greek is “dunamis” which means inherent power to reproduce itself like a dynamo.
2. The Gospel produces new birth/provides salvation/imparts grace/generates faith/sets us free/nourishes spiritual life/promises immortality/brings peace/gives protection (being covered by the blood)/gives full blessings.

B. Salvation is attained by confessing and believing (Romans 10:9-10).

1. It is this MOUTH-CONFESSING (that Jesus is Lord) and HEART-BELIEVING (that He resurrected) that will get us saved.
2. There is approximately, a foot distance between the mouth and the heart. As we confess that Jesus is Lord, let this conviction sink deeper into our heart by believing that Jesus resurrected.

II. THE RESURRECTION ENHANCES OUR FAITH

V14b ... and your faith is useless. (NLT)

V17a And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile...

A. Without the Resurrection, we are still in sin.

V17b ... you are still in your sins.

1. If Jesus did not resurrect, we are always doomed to eternal damnation because we are forever in sin.
2. If Jesus did not resurrect, eternal life is just a dream for those who want to be free from sin.

B. Without the Resurrection, the dead in Christ are lost.

V18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

1. If Jesus did not resurrect, those dead believers of Jesus are not in heaven; they may just be soul sleeping or perhaps floating around the Universe.
2. If Jesus did not resurrect, those dead in Christ have no hope of the Rapture.

C. Without the Resurrection, there is no hope for life after death.

V13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

V16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

V26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

- **A sermon on resurrection could be entitled: “The Death of Death in the Death of Christ.”**
 1. The Resurrection defeated death—death of the people and the death of Jesus Himself. (vv13-16)
 2. When Jesus died at the cross, He defeated Satan (the first Enemy), but when He resurrected, He defeated death (the last Enemy). (v26)

III. **THE RESURRECTION VALIDATES OUR CLAIMS**

V15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

- Christianity without the resurrection is empty and meaningless.
- Resurrection is the foundation for witness and fellowship with God because the living Lord has been seen and touched BEFORE and AFTER the Resurrection (1 John 1:1-4). (Jesus is not a fictive character, He lived and dwelt among the apostles.)
- It is the foundation for ministry and apostleship (Acts 1:21-25).

A. With the Resurrection, it gives believers confidence to share the good news.

1. People want a NEW product.
2. Jesus is different from other gods, prophets, or teachers.

B. With the Resurrection, it gives believers boldness to stand up for Jesus.

1. He is alive! The stone (approximately 4000 kgs) had been rolled away and the tomb was empty.
2. The Lord we believe in and proclaim is alive. He rose from the grave to defeat death.