

Epic, game changer, catalytic, explosive, dynamic, can all be used to describe the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yet, in no way do they adequately describe the importance or impact of the resurrection in human history or in your life personally. In John 11:25-26, Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies." The resurrection dominates the New Testament and the preaching of the apostles. This would have never happened without an empty tomb and eyewitness encounters. The resurrection changes everything. Consider what Paul says in Acts 17...

I. Christian faith is reasonable. *Acts 17:2,17*

II. God is knowable. *Acts 17:24-28; Jeremiah 24:7; John 17:3; Ephesians 1:17*

J.I. Packer: "What were we made for? To know God. What aim should we set ourselves in life? To know God. What is the best thing in life, bringing more joy, delight, and contentment, than anything else? Knowledge of God."

III. There is a day of judgment. *Acts 17:30-31a; Hebrews 9:27*

IV. The reality of the resurrection is the ultimate proof for the claims of Jesus Christ. *Acts 17:31; Acts 1:3; 2 Peter 1:16*

If Jesus is risen, nothing else matters, and that if Jesus is not risen, nothing else matters.

Well over three hundred verses are concerned with the subject of Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament. We are told that this event is a sign for unbelievers (Matthew 12:38-40; cf. John 20:24-29) as well as the answer for the believer's doubt (Luke 24:38-43). It serves as the guarantee that Jesus' teachings are true (Acts 2:22-24; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20) and is the center of the gospel itself (Romans 4:24-25, 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Gary R. Habermas & J.P. Moreland, Immortality - The Other Side of Death, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992, p. 245.