

“The Significance of Easter”
1 Corinthians 15:12-26
 Pastor Eric Yee

*Because Jesus Christ is resurrected,
 we can have hope in this life and the life to come.*

I. “If Christ has NOT been raised from the dead” (vv. 12-19)

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

SALVATION		
Past	Present	Future
<i>We have been saved</i> (Eph. 2:8-9)	<i>We are being saved</i> (1 Cor. 1:18; 15:2)	<i>We shall be saved</i> (Rom. 5:9)
Justification	Sanctification	Glorification

Romans 8:29-30 = For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son [**or sanctification**], in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also **justified**, and those whom he justified he also **glorified**.

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Romans 4:25 (NIV) = He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NIV) = Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. **For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.**

¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:30-32 = Why are we in danger every hour? ... 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.”

II. “But in fact Christ HAS been raised from the dead” (vv. 20-26)

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Romans 8:18-21 (NIV) = I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

John 11:25-26 = I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?

Life Application

1. Reflect on how hopeless this life would be if Christ has *not* been raised from the dead and this life *really* is all there is.

2. Rejoice in the fact that Christ *has* been raised from the dead and what hope that gives us in this life and the life to come.

3. Reveal to others the *hope* offered to us in Jesus' death and resurrection if we believe in him as our Lord and Savior.