

WORD

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. . . ." MATTHEW 28:5,6

(READ ALSO 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-26.)

WHAT

Jesus is the Risen King. His resurrection isn't just an amazing miracle—it proved that everything He said was true. He is God's Son, all-powerful, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus conquered sin, defeated the devil, and destroyed death. These are our benefits to claim as His followers. In this lesson, we will look at each one.

1 Jesus conquered sin.

¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. . . . ²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:17,20

On the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world. He freed us from its power. Sin has already been conquered. If we have put our trust and faith in Christ alone for our salvation, sin has no power over us. We can live victoriously because we serve God—not sin. What does it mean to still be "in your sins"? Why is this not true for Christians any longer?

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2 Jesus defeated the devil.

²⁴Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:24,25

. . . The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 JOHN 3:8

The devil has been at work in the world—tempting us, accusing us, and deceiving us. When Jesus died on the cross and resurrected from the dead, He freed us from the devil's work. We can be victorious because of Jesus' finished and victorious work. His victory paved the way for our victory. Why should we not be afraid of the devil? But why does he still fight, even though he is a defeated foe?

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3 Jesus destroyed death.

²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. . . . ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:22,26

⁵⁴. . . "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 1 CORINTHIANS 15:54,55

Death, the last enemy, was destroyed through Christ's finished work on the cross and His resurrection. Though this still has an effect on us—we see it happen around us and it will happen to us one day—we can be assured that it doesn't have power over us because of the eternal life we have been given in Christ. We have been made alive in Christ. What is a "sting"? How did death lose its sting? Why should we not fear death?

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