

# IF THERE BE NO RESURRECTION

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:13

(1 Cor 15:13) "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:"

Introduction:

In the opening verses of this chapter, Paul reminds us of the doctrine of Christ's resurrection from the dead is a vital and foundational doctrine.

It should not shock us when people who have never been saved deny that Christ is the Son of God, deny His atoning sacrifice, and deny His resurrection, but when individuals who have testified of salvation question the resurrection from the dead that is cause for concern. Not long after Christ had established the church people began to dispute this doctrine.

(1 Cor 15:12) "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?"

It is a dangerous thing to tamper with truth, especially the truth of the gospel. Paul in addressing this problem

in the church at Corinth paints a picture of what life would be like if there be no resurrection.

You see, if there had been no resurrection from the dead, then we would be in sad shape this morning!

Lets consider that question thjis morning, "What if there had been no resurrection?"

## **1. BITTER ASSUMPTION (12-19)**

### A. No foundation (12-13)

(1 Cor 15:12-13) "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? {13} But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:"

#### 1. Part of the gospel.

(1 Cor 15:1-4) "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; {2} By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. {3} For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how 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:"

## B. No faith (14-16)

(1 Cor 15:14-16) "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. {15} Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. {16} For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:"

1. Our preaching is vain (14)
2. Our faith is vain (14)
3. We are a false witness (15)

## C. No forgiveness (17)

(1 Cor 15:17) "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."

## D. No future (18-19)

(1 Cor 15:18-19) "Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. {19} If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Notice 2 terrible things that are true if Jesus did not rise from the dead.

1. Our loved ones who have before are gone forever. (18)

2. We have lived our lives in vain (19)

This picture that Paul painted is pretty bleak. If there be no resurrection from the dead then we are all in real trouble today. But thank God Paul did not stop writing with verse 19. Verse 20 stands out like a light house pointing the way of hope, safety, and salvation.

I'm glad that we do just have the bitter assumption, but rather we have

## **2. A BLESSED ASSURANCE**

Paul states that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead! He lives this morning just like the Bible says He does.

The stories penned in the Gospels are true.

The angels word to the woman "He is risen" was true.

The stone was rolled away, not so the Jesus could come out, for He was already gone. The stone was rolled away so that you and I might look into the tomb and find it empty.

He lives therefore

A. Our foundation is firm

(1 Cor 3:11) "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

(2 Tim 2:19) "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

B. Our faith is genuine

C. Our forgiveness is accomplished

D. Our future is secured

(John 14:1-4) "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. {2} In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. {3} And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. {4} And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

(1 Th 4:13-18) "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. {14} For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring

with him. {15} For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. {16} For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: {17} Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. {18} Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Close: Are you saved?

(John 14:6) "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Are you living the victorious Christian life?