

Easter Sunday – 2011

What If Jesus Didn't Rise from the Dead?

1 Corinthians 15:12-22

Introduction: The resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, but in every generation, skeptics try to deny its truth. On this Easter Sunday morning, I want to explore the implications of no resurrection.

1. *OBJECTION – Resurrection focuses our attention on a future we can't see; so, we don't engage with the present we do see. 1 Corinthians 15:12-13*

- A. The Corinthians struggled with the concept of resurrection because it conflicted with Greek views on the body and the afterlife.
- B. The pressure to compromise our belief in the resurrection has been a temptation in every generation.
- C. There are three groups today that downplay or deny the resurrection...
- D. If a follower of Christ minimizes resurrection truths, they neglect an important discipline that Paul says is essential for worship and service. 1 Corinthians 15:58

2. *CONFRONTATION – Paul shows that our faith is futile if Jesus didn't rise from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:14-19*

- A. 1st implication – Any ministry we have experienced in the past has been essentially worthless. 15:14a, 15-16
- B. 2nd implication – Our faith has no real purpose. 15:14b, 17a
- C. 3rd implication – There is no forgiveness; we are still in our sins. 15:17
- D. 4th implication – If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, we have no hope for reunion with Christian relatives after we die. 15:18
- E. 5th implication – If the resurrection did not take place, then we Christians of all people are most to be pitied. 15:19
- F. 6th implication – We have been finding comfort in something that is completely non-existent and misleading.
- G. So how then can we know if the resurrection really took place?

3. *CONCLUSION – Because Jesus rose from the dead, he has become the foundational hope of the human race. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

- A. Why Jesus is the hope of the world: The issue of spiritual death and life.
- B. Why Jesus can be trusted above all else: Jesus' present resurrected position.