



Title: Resurrection Hope (First Corinthians)

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

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Intro: All of the Christian faith hinges on Jesus' death and resurrection. In this text we see how Paul insists upon the reality of the resurrection as essential to the Gospel. If Christ is not raised, there is no Gospel. If Christ is not raised, there is no hope.

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. 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. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Seven consequences if it is true that Christ has not been raised:

1. preaching is vain (14a)
2. faith is vain (14b)
3. we are misrepresenting God (15)
4. faith is futile (17a)
5. still in our sin (17b)
6. dead in Christ have perished (18)
7. we are of all people most to be pitied (19)

1. Salvation from sin and death is only possible because of the Resurrection.

1. Regardless of whatever else you want to say, if Christ is not raised, we are still in our sins!

- That's the essence of the Bible. That is the heart of Christianity.
- We don't need help, we need a Savior.

2. Why is Jesus' resurrection necessary for our salvation from sin?

- Romans 4:25
- Jesus' resurrection vindicates his innocence and the acceptability of his sacrifice (1 Tim 3:16)
- Jesus' resurrection demonstrates God's approval and satisfaction of his work
- It displays and confirms his power over sin and death—he conquers them (Col 2:14-15)

3. Why did God choose to do it this way?

- The primary purpose of the universe and everything in it is to display God's glory and greatness.
- Romans 9:21-23

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. 27 For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

2. The Resurrection demonstrates God's sure and final triumph over every enemy, evil, sin and death.

1. Why does God allow this process?

- Again, for the display of God's glory!

29 Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? 30 Why are we in danger every hour? 31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32 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." 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

3. The reality of the Resurrection should cause us to take life very seriously.

Question: Do you believe in the Resurrection of Jesus?

- Romans 8:31-39