

**“What If..., Then..., But..., Therefore...”**

**1 Cor. 15:12-19**

**Grace Community Church**

**Kingston, Tennessee**

**Sunday, April 12, 2020**

**1. TEXT: 1 Cor. 15:12-19, (12) Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. (14) And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. (15) Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. (16) For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. (17) And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! (18) Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. (19) If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**

**2. REMARKS:**

**a. The resurrection of Christ is the foundational truth of Christianity**

- i. Everything else about Christianity is built upon the foundation of the resurrection of Christ.**
- ii. All other doctrines/beliefs we as Christians hold dear, rise or fall upon the resurrection of Christ**
- iii. If the resurrection of Christ did not occur, then the foundation of our faith is worthless**

**3. WHAT IF..., Christ were not raised from the dead, what would be the consequences to us as believers? (14 dilemmas)**

**a. #1 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SCRIPTURE IS FALSE***

**1. Scripture promised Christ would:**

**a) Die for the sins of His people**

**(1) Is. 53:4-6, (4) Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

**b) Rise from the dead:**

(1) Psalms 16:10, "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."

(2) Zech. 12:10, "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."

**b. #2 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SAVIOR IS A FAKE***

**i. Jesus said He would rise from the dead:**

- I. Jn. 2:19, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."
- II. Matthew 12:40, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
- III. Mark 8:31, "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."

**ii. He said that His resurrection was to be a sign**

- I. Mt. 12:39-40, (39) But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. (40) "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

**iii. If Christ did not rise from the dead as He said He would, there are only two options to describe His character. He was either a:**

**I. OPTION #1: *HE WAS A LIAR***

a. If what Christ said about His resurrection from the dead was a lie, there are only two explanations for Him making these claims:

- i. #1: He did not know what He was saying was false
- ii. #2: He knew what He was saying was false.

**II. OPTION #2: *HE WAS A LUNATIC***

- a. If Christ thought Himself to be God when He was not, He was a lunatic.
- c. **#3 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SALVATION IS A FABLE***
- i. His resurrection was the proof that God accepted the sacrifice which He had made for sin
  - ii. Romans 4:25, "He was delivered *because* our offenses, He was raised again *because* our justification."
- d. **#4 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SAINTS ARE DOOMED***
- i. 1 Corinthians 15:17, "And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins!"
- e. **#5 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SUFFERING IS FORTHCOMING***
- i. Jn. 14:19, "Because I live, you will live also."
  - ii. 1 Cor. 15:17, "You are still in your sins."
- f. **#6 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SACRIFICED FUTURE***
- g. **#7 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SUFFERING OF THE FAITHFUL***
- i. 1 Corinthians 15:18, "Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished."
  - ii. Jn. 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not *perish* [i.e., go to Hell], but have eternal life."
  - iii. "Lifted up their eyes in torment." (Lk. 16:23)
- h. **#8 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SENTENCED AFTER THE FUNERAL***
- i. "It is appointed for men to die once and after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27)
- i. **#9 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SEPULCHERS WILL REMAIN FULL***
- j. **#10 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SERMONS ARE FARCICAL***

- i. 1 Corinthians 15:14, “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching [is] empty and your faith [is] also empty.”

**k. #11 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SENSELESS FAITH***

- i. 1 Corinthians 15:17, “And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins!”
- ii. Rm. 4:2, “He was delivered because of our offenses, and was raised again because of our justification.”

**l. #12 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SPEAKERS OF FANTASY***

- i. 1 Corinthians 15:15, “Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.”
- ii. EX: Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism

**m. #13 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SAINTS FORSAKEN***

- i. We have no Holy Spirit dwelling within us
  - I. Because Christ said, “If I depart, I will send Him [the Comforter] unto you.” (Jn. 16:7)
- ii. If we do not have the Holy Spirit, we:
  - I. Are not sealed until the day of redemption
    - a. Ephesians 1:13, “In Him you also [trusted], after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise ....”
  - II. Do not have the one who makes our prayers acceptable to God
    - a. Romans 8:26, “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
  - III. Do not have the one who can comfort us when no one else can (Jn. 14 & 16)

**n. #14 DILEMMA IF CHRIST WERE NOT RESURRECTED: *SEEK FUN***

**4. BUT, CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD**

- a. **PROOF—When the women and the disciples arrived at the tomb they found (3 Proofs):**
- i. **PROOF #1: Soldiers were gone**
    - I. **Matthew 28:4, “And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead [men].”**
  - ii. **PROOF #2: Stone was rolled away from the mouth of the sepulcher**
    - I. **The stone was rolled away:**
      - a. **NOT to let Christ out**
      - b. **But to allow us to look in and see that He was gone**
    - II. **John believed the testimony (Jn. 20:1-8)**
      - a. **Jn. 20:1-8, (1) Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. (2) Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." (3) Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. (4) So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. (5) And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. (6) Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, (7) and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. (8) Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.**
  - iii. **PROOF #3: Grave clothes**
    - I. **The linen clothes were lying, not strewn about the tomb, but where the body had been, and that there was a gap where the neck of Christ had been**
    - II. **The napkin, which had been about His head, was not with the linen clothes but apart, still twirled together.**
    - III. **The body had simply withdrawn itself and left the grave clothes undisturbed.**
    - IV. **Jn. 19:38-40, (38) After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked**

Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. (39) And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. (40) Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

**5. THEREFORE..., SINCE CHRIST DID RISE FROM THE DEAD, THEN THE OPPOSITE OF THE 14 DILEMMAS LISTED ABOVE ARE TRUE**

### **CONCLUSION**

**1. You cannot be saved if you disbelieve the resurrection**

**Romans 10:9, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”**

**2. The Bible says that there is power in the resurrection of Christ.**

**a. Phil. 3:10, “O, that I may know Him and the *power of His resurrection.*”**

**b. Is. 53:4, “He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...”**