

Our text begins (Verse 12) with Paul dealing with those in the church at Corinth who said/taught "there is no resurrection of the dead".

Remember (Chapter 15) opened, (1Corinthians 15:1-9), in it, Paul asserts the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which includes the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Paul then added, "and that He was SEEN" by all the apostles, "He was SEEN" by more than 500 brethren at once! Last of all, "He was SEEN" by me!

Back to our text for this morning: Paul now raises several implications or consequences of there being no resurrection of the dead.

If the dead rise not, then Christ is not risen.

If Christ did not rise from the grave, our preaching is vain and useless, and your faith is vain and useless.

If Christ is not risen, then we are false witnesses of God, because we preach that God raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up.

If Christ did not rise from the grave, you are still dead in your sins, and every believer that has already died has perished in their sins!

If all of that be true: (Verse 19): "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable"

To deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is to deny the witness of the apostles and women who saw the Lord Alive after His death/burial, but also the testimonies of more than 500 eyewitnesses who saw Jesus alive.

To deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is to deny the truth of the Holy Scriptures, which is the eyewitness testimony of the Apostles; whom God appointed to write/record these things for every age to come.

1 John 1:1-5, Acts 1:1-4

But now, let's back up a little to when Jesus was still alive, in the days of His earthly ministry. As Jesus drew near to the day/hour of His death, He began to teach His apostles that He would suffer and die at the hands of the Chief Priests and Elders, and that He would rise from the dead on the 3rd day, after His death.

Matthew 16:21-23, 17:22-23, 20:17-19: The Lord Jesus TOLD His apostles multiple times that He would RISE AGAIN from the dead, but that never registered in their minds!

None of them believed what He told them, we know this by how they reacted through His sufferings and death....none of them RECALLED or REMEMBERED what He told them. They were all still STUCK on, "They killed the Lord, and He's gone".

If they had believed His Word, don't you think they would have waited with great expectation near the tomb for His resurrection?

I realize the Roman Soldiers were there, so they would have had to watch at a distance.

But we don't find any of the apostles saying, let's wait and see, didn't the Lord tell us that He would rise again on the 3rd day? Don't you remember Peter? James? John? Nathanael? Andrew? But that's not what happened?

What's worse is when the women, (who first came to the tomb) ran to tell the apostles that they saw Jesus alive, the apostles said, you're nuts!

Mark 16:9-14, Luke 24:6-11, (2 on Emmaus Road) 21-26

None of them believed what the Lord told them (multiple times) until they saw Him alive with their own eyes. This should help you to understand how slow of heart all of us are when it comes to believing spiritual truths from God. Remember what the Lord told Nicodemus: John 3:11-12:

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, we speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?"

Since the fall of man into sin in the Garden of Eden, all of us have been doing our worst to ruin our own lives and our souls. If your salvation was left up to you and me, none of us would have any hope of ever being saved. Just as the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was a miraculous work of God, so also is your salvation!

Back to 1 Corinthians 15:12: We PREACH the gospel of the RISEN Christ, who was dead, buried, AND who is RISEN and ALIVE and ASCENDED to the right hand of the Father in heaven.

Back to (Verses 13-18) and what Christianity would be without the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The fact is, there would be no Christianity!

What did Paul teach the Christians at Corinth by what he said in (Verses 13-18)?

Basically, if you deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you deny your own salvation! DID YOU CHANGE YOURSELVES? Do you still love your sins? Are all of you pretending to be Christians?

How did you become what and who you are if Christ did not rise from the grave? 1 Corinthians 1:4-8, 6:9-11, 2 Corinthians 5:17

For the believers at Corinth to deny the resurrection of Christ from the dead would have been to deny the power of God in their own lives. If you're a Christian today, you are so because Jesus DID RISE alive from the grave!

Your salvation, (if you're saved) is LIFE from the DEAD! It is a spiritual resurrection!

If Jesus did not rise from the grave, He would possess no power at all to save!

Romans 1:1-4, John 5:24-26, 11:25-26, Ephesians 2:1-9

If Christ did not rise ALIVE from the grave, then God was not satisfied with His blood (which we call precious), nor was God satisfied with His sacrifice for the sins of the world!

But your Christian life and your salvation from your sins and from the world and from the devil is proof that Christ DID rise from the grave, and that He does possess ALL POWER to save dead and lifeless sinners, because He IS declared by God to be the Son of God with ALL POWER which is given to Him in heaven and in earth!

Our Christianity is EVIDENCE that Christ IS RISEN from the grave alive! Our preaching is therefore NOT vain and useless, we are NOT false witnesses of God, and how then can we perish in our sins? For we have been saved from our sins by the POWER of the RISEN Christ!

Romans 1:16-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18, Matthew 1:21

Recap: There are too many witnesses of Jesus' resurrection, it to be denied!

The apostles gave their lives for the testimony of Christ and COULD NOT deny that which they knew to be true. (They were eyewitnesses of the Lord's resurrection from the dead).

Since the time of Christ, to this day, believing men and women have given their lives for testimony of the Risen Christ, refusing to deny His life, His death, and His resurrection for their sins! Your life, Christian, is a LIVING WITNESS that Jesus LIVES! Hebrews 7:25

The creation testifies that Christ arose from the grave: John 12:24

The sun every day!

And then, we have the Word of God! 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

I don't know if you realize this, but before Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead, the apostles preached: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"

From the Day of Pentecost to this day, the gospel message is the testimony and witness of the sinless and suffering Christ, who was crucified, buried, and then sealed in a tomb, and risen again on the 3rd day (ALIVE), having defeated sin, Satan, and victorious over the last enemy, death! (The wages of sin!). That's our GOSPEL brethren, we preach the gospel of the RISEN CHRIST!

1 Corinthians 15:19

If this life is all we have as Christians, if we have no hope of eternal life, we're a miserable lot. 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

1 Corinthians 15:20-22, Acts 13:30-39