THE RESURRECTION DILEMMA
1 Corinthians 15:12-26

The gospel plainly stated:

What the gospel is (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

- Jesus **died** for us and was buried.
- Jesus rose for us and was **seen.**

What the gospel does (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)

- If we receive it, we have **acceptance.**
- If we believe it, we have **salvation.**

If the dead do not rise: (v.12-19)

1. Christ would be **lifeless** (v.13).
2. Our message would be **meaningless** (v.14).
3. Faith would be **worthless** (v.14).
4. Preachers would **useless** (v.15).
5. Mankind would be **hopeless** (v.17).
    a. If Christ is not risen, you are still **captive** to your sin.
    b. Now, if He didn't rise, He lost. Sin won. **Satan** won.
6. Death would be **endless** (v.18).
    a. Death would be **final**; death would be **heartless**; death would mean endless **grief** if the dead do not rise!
    b. Death would be a **destiny** instead of a **doorway**.
7. Our piteous life would be **pointless** (v.19).

But the dead do rise: (v.20-26)

1. Paul stated the **problem** in life – sin. Jesus is the final answer to our **fatal flaw** (v.21-22)
2. Paul announced the **promise** of life– resurrection at His coming. Jesus is the **first fruit** of the **full resurrection** (v.20, 23).
3. Jesus provided the **proof** of life – Jesus rose. Jesus is the faithful victor over our **fearful enemy** (v.23-26).

   So just how important is the resurrection of Jesus?

   …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. [10] For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

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