The Resurrection– 3/31/24

TEXT- 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 *Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:*

INTRO – **Without the resurrection of Christ there is no Christian life.**

I. IF CHRIST WAS NOT RAISED
A. GOSPEL PREACHING IS VAIN... (1Co 15:14)
1. The preaching of the apostles is empty, meaningless
2. Because they proclaimed nothing more than a fairy tale, a story of fiction

B. OUR FAITH IS VAIN... (1Co 15:14)
1. Our belief in Christ would also be empty, meaningless
2. For our faith would be in a lie, a story of make believe, not truth

C. THE APOSTLES WERE FALSE WITNESSES... (1Co 15:15)
1. They swore that God raised Jesus from the dead - Ac 2:32
2. They claimed to spend 40 days with Him after the resurrection, eating and drinking with Him - Ac 10:39-41
3. There is no way they could have been deceived or mistaken; either they told the truth or they were deliberate liars, deceivers, and frauds!

D. WE ARE STILL IN OUR SINS... (1Co 15:17)
1. It would have been a liar or lunatic that died on the cross
2. No such person could have provided a sacrifice that was holy and without blemish

E. BELIEVERS HAVE PERISHED AT DEATH... (1Co 15:18)
1. Their faith would have been in a false Messiah
2. They would have had no atonement for their sins
3. Dying in their sins, there would be no hope

F. CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE PITIED... (1Co 15:19)
1. Because we believe in a false Messiah
2. Because our faith in Him leads us to refrain from much worldly pleasure
3. Because we are often ridiculed or persecuted for our faith

[As Paul makes it clear, the resurrection of Christ is foundational to the Christian faith. If Jesus is not raised, then we should not be Christians! Now let's examine the significance from another angle...]

II. IF CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED
A. IT VERIFIES OUR JUSTIFICATION... (Ro 4:24-25)
1. Jesus claimed His blood would be adequate - Mt 26:28
2. By raising Jesus from the dead, God demonstrated His acceptance of Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins! - Ro 8:33-34

B. IT DEMONSTRATES THE POWER AVAILABLE TO THE CHRISTIAN... (Ep 1:18-20)
1. Power available at our conversion - Col 2:11-12; 1Pe 3:21
2. Power available to live the Christian life - Ro 8:11-13; Php 2:12-13; 4:13; Ep 3:20; 6:10

C. IT GIVES US HOPE CONCERNING OUR OWN RESURRECTION... (1Pe 1:3)
1. His resurrection gives us a living hope! - 1Pe 1:21
2. Especially concerning the resurrection of believers! - 1Th 4:13-14

D. IT DEMANDS OUR COMPLETE LOYALTY... (Ro 14:9)
1. He was raised and then exalted to become our Lord - Ac 2:32-36; Ep 1:20-23
2. Thus our lives and service belong to Him - Ro 14:7-8; 2Co 5:15

CONCLUSION
1. The impact of the resurrection of Jesus should not go unfelt in our lives...
   - As a historical event it has everlasting implications
   - For both the believer and the unbeliever
2. The **believer** must never lose sight of the significance of the resurrection...
   - Do our lives demonstrate that we serve a risen Lord and Savior?
   - Do we possess the hope, peace, and strength that the reality and power of His resurrection gives to the Christian?
3. The **unbeliever** also needs to examine the significance of the resurrection carefully...
   - It verifies the deity of Jesus, that He has all authority - Ro 1:4; Mt 28:19; Ac 2:36

- It verifies the truthfulness of what He taught, such as...
    1. No one can come to the Father but through Him - **Jn 14:6**
    2. His blood was shed for the remission of sins - **Mt 26:28**
    3. He came to offer abundant life - **Jn 10:10**
    4. He went to prepare a place for us - **Jn 14:2**
    5. He shall come again - **Jn 14:3**
    6. There will be a resurrection of the dead and ensuing judgment - **Jn 5:28-29; 12:48**
- If Jesus rose from the dead, then one must believe in Him! - cf. **Jn 8:24**

CONCL – May we never forget **"The Significance Of The Resurrection of Christ"** in our lives!