

WHAT IF JESUS DIDN'T RISE FROM THE DEAD?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

IF CHRIST HAD NOT BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD...

1. The message of the gospel we preach is in vain. (vs. 14)
2. Our faith is in vain and worthless. (vss. 14, 17)
3. We are still dead in our sins. (vs. 17)
4. All those who have died have perished. (vs. 18)
5. Our hope is limited to this life and we should be pitied. (vs.19)

BECAUSE JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD WE WHO ARE IN CHRIST WILL ALSO RISE FROM THE DEAD IN GLORY

- *“But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”* (1 Corinthians 15:20)
- **The overwhelming evidence proves that Jesus rose from the dead, and as a result, the message of the gospel is not in vain, our faith is well placed, we are freed from our sins, those in Christ who have died are with Him in paradise, and our hope for eternity will be realized.**
- *“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.”* (Romans 8:11)
- *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. 5 You are being guarded by God’s power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials 7 so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and*

glorious joy, 9 because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:3-9)

- **There is no hope for an eternity with the Lord in the place He has prepared for His children apart from repenting of sin and placing faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection for your salvation.**
- *“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. 26 Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”* (John 11:25-26)
- **What do you believe about the resurrection of Jesus, and subsequently, what will happen when you exit this life?**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- What logical connection does Paul make between the resurrection of believers and the resurrection of Christ? (vss. 12-13)
- What does Paul say would be true if Christ had not been raised? (vss. 14-17)
- What does Paul say happens to those who have already died if there is no resurrection (v. 18)?
- How does Paul contrast the “what if” scenario with reality in verse 20?

Understanding

- Why do you think Paul spends time addressing a “what if” scenario instead of only focusing on the truth of the resurrection?
- Which of the consequences Paul lists (empty faith, still in sin, no hope, etc.) stands out to you the most? Why?
- How does the truth that Jesus rose from the dead strengthen your confidence in your faith?
- Have you ever wrestled with doubts about the resurrection or life after death? What helped—or could help—strengthen your विश्वास?
- How does the reality of the resurrection change the way you view death, suffering, or difficult seasons in life?
- Paul makes it clear that everything rises and falls on the resurrection. What does it look like to live daily with that truth at the center of your life?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?