

Our Resurrection Hope – 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

The bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead lies at the very center of our faith as Christians. Yet some in the church in Corinth were denying it. Paul does not take this lightly. After reminding them how well attested the resurrection is, he goes on to show them why they desperately need it to be true.

1 Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Paul lays out an alternate reality here – one where Jesus is not raised from the dead. He

- 1) If we lose the resurrection, what do we lose with it? Why? Discuss.**
- 2) On the flip side, since Jesus is raised it is the proof and guarantee that the work of Jesus is in fact good news for us. Tease that out – what does his resurrection guarantee is true for us?**
- 3) Does the resurrection feature much when it comes to your everyday life? Does come to mind, is it something you go back to often? Why do think that is?**

This seems an odd doctrine to reject on the surface, but when we realize the Corinthian dualistic cultural background it starts to make sense. This was written to the church at Corinth – believers not skeptics. They were influenced by the culture around them to tweak what they had received so that it meshed better with what the world around them believed. The adjusted the gospel to the standard of their culture, rather than weighing their culture against the standard of the gospel. We are not immune to the same thing.

- 4) What cultural pressures do we face that press against the resurrection that may lure to redefine or devalue it?**
- 5) How does our hope in the resurrection, or lack thereof, affect the way we can engage with this world in the here and now?**
- 6) How do we corporately encourage one another toward proper hope? How does the resurrection shape how we carry each other's burdens?**
- 7) Are there any particular ways you feel like you are struggling with misplaced hope right now?**

PRAYER

Pray specifically for those struggles, we just spoke of, for grace to put our hope in what will not disappoint.