

Sometimes we play with things that are more dangerous than we think...YouTube = Gas

- Remember Mercury Thermometers = Give myself a fever = Blew the thing up = Played I had no idea that what I was playing with was so dangerous
- Paul is writing to warn people of a danger...the danger of playing with heresy
So many heresies' surrounding Christianity = Nature of Christ – Trinity – 2nd Coming
Paul addressing a dangerous heresy—denial of the resurrection of the dead – Denial Dangerous...play with such a heresy – Don't believe...not a Christian | Both Resurrections

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.

Paul is expressly saying just how important the resurrection of Christ is...we have no religion

Big Idea - There is no reason for our religion without the resurrection

Now...you might be thinking 'Who doesn't believe in the resurrection?' – Lots of people

- Soul Sleep – Where the body dies the soul goes into hibernation until the 2nd coming
- Annihilationism – Where materialists believe there is nothing after death
- Reincarnation – Soul and spirit are recycled even from human to animal vice versa
- Absorption – Spirit returns back into an ultimate divine mind or being – Drop Ocean

⇒ People in the Corinthians Church who were blending Greek and Christian ideas

- Greeks believed the body & soul were separated at death...no resurrection – Problem
No resurrection...then Christ hasn't been raised from the dead – Sin and death still reign
There're two things we know for certain from the Scriptures as it pertains to life after death

- a. 'To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord' = 2 Corinthians 5:8
- b. Our bodies will be transformed at the second coming of Christ and we will be like Him
Philippians 3:20-21 - ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.'

We're going to look at three things are biblical bummers if Christ wasn't raised from dead

1. If Christ has not been raised: Our faith is futile (v12-14)

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.

Paul brings us three catastrophize that are true if there is no resurrection

- a. No resurrection then Christ didn't raise from the dead...not God...no power
- b. Our preaching is pointless – What else are we talking about other than resurrection
- c. Our faith is in vain – If Jesus doesn't raise from the death we have no faith

11 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

- What do we hope for? A resurrection! What haven't we seen? The resurrection

I was watching a game show – Ocean – bucket – fill a trash can = Our faith no resurrection

Takeaway - Because He lives, we must anchor in His truth and live it loud

If it is true that Christ raised from the dead...then our faith isn't futile...ferocious

- Where does the strength of your faith come from? New Life – Jesus – You – Eternity
- If we believe that message has that kind of power...nothing will shut us up

2. If Christ has not been raised: Our message is fake (v15-16)

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.

- Sobering point – Christ didn't raise from dead...he and all apostles = Misrepresenting
Everything they teach would be a lie...that hit's us all right in the gut
- If Christ didn't raise from the dead...we're all lying about God...how does that sound
All our testimony...our preaching...all of our Scripture reading...memorization = Worthless
Paul, by extension us, would all be deceiving the world if Christ stayed dead = Deception
Rhett & Link – Deceptive Cakes = We would all be feeding people something that isn't real

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

- If Christ didn't raise from the dead then the apostles teaching is worthless
- The entire New Testament is worthless and we are still waiting on a Savior

There is no gospel message apart from the resurrection of Christ

Takeaway - Because He lives, we cannot be idle in our witness

- Have you ever been boating with someone who is just too cautious...make jokes
Too many Christians are afraid to open that baby up and see what she can do
- Our message isn't fake...it's powerful and can change the lives of the listener

But more than that...the resurrection is also our greatest hope in the world

3. If Christ has not been raised: Our hope is foolish (v17-19)

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

- What a horrific declaration...if Christ has not been raised...we are still in our sin
- The sin that leads to death and eternal separation from God...it still has a hold on us

If Christ doesn't rise from the dead...hell awaits us all!

¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

- All of your loved ones that have passed away, who were in Christ...imagine them?
Every saint...OT – NT...apostles...Augustine – Calvin – Luther – Westley – Moody = Torment!
¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Have you ever had pity on somebody – history of the Orphanage – Middle Ages...plagues
Feeling of sorrow, compassion, or sympathy for someone else's suffering or misfortune.

We are to be pitied most if Christ has not raised from the dead...out hope if foolish

But what if we're right? – Then we have nothing to fear and everything to hope in

Takeaway - Because He lives, we stake everything on our forever hope.

Have you ever been feeling hopeless? This is normal, life, hopelessness

- Because Jesus rose you can have confidence your sins are completely / totally forgiven
- Because Jesus rose of your salvation is secure.
- Because Jesus rose we can have life to the full and life to the fullest everlasting

There is no reason for our religion without the resurrection

When it comes to the resurrection...don't play with anything as dangerous

- Here is the ultimate truth...those that believe the heresy that Jesus didn't rise...
 - They will not rise with Him in Heaven
- Those of us who believe Jesus died for our sins and rose from the grave...
 - We will rise again with Him in glory! Pray