

- I) V12-19 INTRO: Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead
When we began this study, I mentioned there were various reasons for writing it
- II) Ch1:11 told us Paul had received a report concerning the life of the body
His concern for their spiritual well-being is what caused him to write
WHAT WERE THE PROBLEMS?
- III) They began experiencing division, were comparing teachers, sexual immorality,
had questions about marriage, idolatry, the role of women, communion, and the gifts
- IV) Ch 15 is dedicated to dealing with another one of the problems in the church
Questions concerning the resurrection
REVIEW
- V) In our last study, Paul began developing the doctrine of the resurrection
False teachers were teaching that the resurrection was not possible
Some Greek philosophers thought such a teaching was absurd
- VI) Paul knew this doctrine was central to Christian faith
His entire life had been changed because of Jesus' resurrection
From a persecutor of the church he became its greatest advocate
- VII) What was this built on? The reality of the **living Christ**
THE QUESTION
- VIII) What if Jesus were not truly alive? What if He hadn't been resurrected?
Paul lists **six negatives** that would exist if there were no Resurrection
HE BEGINS
- IX) V12 Now **if Christ is preached** that He has been raised from the dead how do
Paul reminds them he has taught that Jesus was resurrected from the dead
DEVELOP
- X) In V3-4 he pointed to this: *He died for our sins and* **rose again the third day**
AGAIN
- XI) Some had entered the Church and were denying physical resurrection
They influenced some of the Corinthian believers: How could this happen?
- XII) The Corinthians lived in a region permeated with philosophy and religions
What were the prevailing teachings? Sadducees denied the resurrection
Some Greeks taught **total annihilation**, or **reincarnation**, others taught that
people were **absorbed** into the **divine being**

- I) Gnostics were teaching that **spirit** was good, and **matter** was evil
For them, the after life was an **escape** from the material world **to be desired**
The thought of returning to material life was something that they rejected
KEY
- II) This kind of thinking had begun influencing the believers in Corinth
The sad fact is we can be influenced by what the general population believes
- III) This is something Jesus addressed in Caesarea Philippi
Who do men say that I the Son of Man am?
- IV) Paul was greatly concerned that the teachings of Christ would be twisted
This is why he would issue warnings to the believers
Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit,
according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and
not according to Christ
THIS IS WHAT PAUL IS DEALING WITH
- V) V12 Now if Christ is preached that **He has been raised** from the dead
He reminds them of the heart of preaching: God raised Jesus from the dead
HIS RESURRECTION IS THE CORE
- VI) His resurrection was the heart of the **first gospel message** Peter preached
Ac 2:22-24 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by
God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst,
as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and
foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to
death; **whom God raised up**, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not
possible that He should be held by it.
HERE'S THE PROBLEM
- VII) False teachers were denying that there would be a resurrection
Paul is making it clear that to teach that there is no resurrection is an error
The resurrection is a revelation found in both the Old and New Testaments
- VIII) It is not completely revealed in the OT, but is referred to several times
Job 19:26 After my skin is destroyed **this I know**, that in my flesh I shall see God
Ps 17:15 As for me, I will behold Your face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied,
when I awake, with Your likeness.
Dan. 12:2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to
everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

- I) This goes without saying: Jesus taught about resurrection
He spoke of His own resurrection
Jn 2:19-21 Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up...speaking of the temple of His body
- II) He also spoke of the resurrection of the dead
Jn 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation
Jn 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father who has sent me draws him: and I will raise him up at the last day.
Jn 11:25 Jesus said to (Martha), I am the resurrection, and the life: he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live
- III) V12b Some were saying that there is no resurrection of the dead
This made no sense, because they believe that Jesus was resurrected (V1-4, 11)
- IV) V13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead then Christ is not risen
If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Jesus is still dead
QUESTION
- V) What would be the result if Jesus were just a dead teacher?
FIRST
- VI) V14 And if Christ is not risen, then our **preaching** is vain (Futile, worthless)
Our preaching is empty and without reality
FIRST
- VII) We have preached in redemption that is guaranteed by resurrection
If Jesus did not rise from the dead, our message is worthless
- VIII) There would be **nothing worth preaching**
Our hope of heaven would be grounded on deception and without value
- IX) There is no heavenly hope for us
Jn 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also

I) John Lennon would be right: Imagine there's no heaven, it's easy if you try; no hell below us, above us only sky

SECOND

II) V14 **and your faith is also vain**

Your faith would be worthless because you are believing in empty promises
A dead savior cannot **give life** or reward for **faithfulness**

POINT

III) **Life** and **reward** is part of the promises of the gospel (Ro 6:23)

Jn 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

IV) The greatest reward that we will ever have will be beholding Jesus

Jn 17:24 Father, I want those you have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory, the glory you have given Me because you loved Me before the creation of the world.

V) If there is no future life or reward from God, there is also no purpose

Why even attempt to be a good person?

Ps 73:13 Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.

Is 49:4 But I said, "I have labored *to no purpose*; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God."

VI) V15 We are found **false witnesses of God**, because we have testified of God

A THIRD RESULT

VII) The Apostles and **witnesses** (V5-7) would be liars, because Jesus is still dead

They wouldn't be simply mistaken, but in fact **intentional liars**

We should not in any way be respected or believed because we are **liars**

VIII) V16 For if the dead do not rise then Christ is not risen (repeats V13)

This reemphasizes the foundation of the gospel: this would mean Jesus is dead

FOURTH

IX) V17 And if Christ is not risen your faith is futile; you are still in your sins

All men would still be in their sins (including them)

- I) This would speak of those who were **trusting in Christ** for forgiveness of sins
If He is not risen, the result is **not only death** but **also** that we are still in our sins
- II) The death of Jesus was a voluntary sacrifice intended to atone for our sins
His death and resurrection had a purpose: to atone for our sins
In His atonement, He reconciled us with God by His giving of His life
- III) In doing so, He removed the guilt and penalty of our sins, providing forgiveness
Ro 4:25 He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life
to make us right with God.
Ro 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved **by His life.**
- IV) If He remained in the grave then we are still in our sins
A FIFTH CONSEQUENCE
- V) V18 Then also those who have fallen asleep **in Christ** have perished
The dead are unsaved and have perished forever, with no true hope
- VI) They have trusted in a Savior **that is risen and** in Him have the hope of heaven
This means that they are simply dead and will not be raised from the dead
- VII) It is Jesus' resurrection that makes us right with God
If He was not resurrected, neither are we right with God
Their destiny would be eternal damnation (Heb 9:27)
- VIII) Since He is resurrected, we have hope for eternity
1 Th 4:13-14 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

SIXTH

- IX) V19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men the most pitiable
In 2nd Co 11 Paul gave a short list of the things he endured for the gospel
He went through much pain, and much need
He suffered persecution, beatings, perils, fatigue, labors, hunger, thirst, betrayal
- X) We could be eating, drinking, and simply living with no persecution

I) We would also be lost forever

Lu 12:16-21 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

II) The Christian life is not an easy life, but **it is** a satisfying life

It is filled with hope, love, faith, purpose, blessings, forgiveness, joy

III) Because He lives, we will also live

Jn 14:19 A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

IV) Paul makes it clear that **they also** will be resurrected

Ro 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give **life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit, who lives in you.

Ro 8:23 We who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies.**