

IF THE DEAD RISE NOT?  
I COR. 15:12-19,29-34

Introduction:

- A. Some in the church at Corinth did not believe in the resurrection of anyone.
  - 1. v12.
  - 2. Not a disbelief in the resurrection of Jesus, but of anyone.
  
- B. Paul presented proof of the resurrection of Jesus.
  - 1. The gospel presents this truth.
  - 2. There were living witnesses.
    - a. Cephas, the twelve, 500 brethren, James, and all the apostles.
    - b. Paul had seen Jesus. v8.
  
- C. Paul now proposes a hypothetical question.
  - 1. What would happen, if Christ be not raised?
  - 2. Theologically and practically?

I. CHRIST IS NOT RISEN. V13

- A. "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen."
  - 1. If no person rises, then Christ is not risen.

II. PREACHING IS VAIN. V14a

- A. "and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain"
  - 1. vain = empty, without purpose.
  - 2. The gospel message is not "good news."

III. YOUR FAITH IS VAIN. V14b

- A. "and your faith is also vain."
  - 1. Your faith is directed towards a lie.

IV. WE ARE FALSE WITNESSES. V15

- A. "yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ; whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not."  
1. false witness = pseudomantur - pseudo-witness.

V. YE ARE YET IN YOUR SINS. V16-17

- A. "your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."  
1. Since your faith is in a dead Saviour.  
2. You have no sacrifice for your sins and therefore your sins are not forgiven.

VI. THE DEAD HAVE PERISHED. V18

- A. "they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."  
1. perished = apollumi - to be utterly ruined and destroyed, to be lost.

VII. WE HOPE IN A LIE. V19

- A. "if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."  
1. miserable = eleeinos - finding pity that succours, hence pitiable, piteous.

VIII. PAUL INTERRUPTS WITH AN ELLIPSES.

- A. This is a common method of inserting needed information. We may think of v20-28 as parenthetical statements. Figures of speech used in the Bible, E. Bullinger, pages 41-43 Baker Book House, originally printed 1898.
- B. These verses, 20-28, are affirmatives. They tell us Christ has done and will do because He has arisen and because we will be raised.

- C. In order to properly understand these verses we will continue Paul's original question, "If Christ be not raised," v20-28 will be considered in the next message.

IX. BAPTISM PRESENTS A FALSE PICTURE. V29

- A. "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?"
- B. Baptism portrays the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. If the dead rise not, why baptize with reference to death?

X. WE RISK OUR LIVES FOOLISHLY. V30-32

- A. The believers were in jeopardy. v30
  - 1. Jeopardy = kinduneuo - to be in danger.
- B. Paul faced death daily. v31
  - 1. I affirm this, brethren, by my glorying in you, as I justly do in Christ Jesus our Lord, I face death every day!
- C. He risked his life unnecessarily. v32
  - 1. If, as the saying is, I fought wild beasts at Ephesus, what good is an ordeal like that, if there is no life after this one.
  - 2. It is not clear what Paul means. He was a Roman citizen and it is unlikely that he was in the arena. However, he did suffer greatly. This may have reference to people.

XI. THE CORINTHIANS SHOULD BE AROUSED. V33-34

- A. Do not have close fellowship with these people. v33
  - 1. "Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners."

2. communications. = omilia - a being together, or in company with anyone. close.
  3. corrupt = phtheiro - to spoil, to corrupt, to destroy, bring into a worse state.
  4. manners = ethos = an accustomed seat; the habits and custom of man, his disposition, his character.
  5. We usually assume some of the attitudes of those we live with closely.
- B. Wake up and do what is right! v34a.
1. Come to your senses and stop sinning.
  2. Don't fellowship with these people and allow them to confuse you and become listless.
- C. These people do not know God. v34b.
1. Some of you are totally ignorant about God.
  2. He does not mean they are unsaved, but ignorant!
- D. They should be ashamed.
1. You should be ashamed that I have to write like this
  2. "I speak this to your shame."