

IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

1 Corinthians 15:12-26, “But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.”

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

If there is no resurrection of the dead...

- Christ has not been raised
- Our preaching is useless
- Our faith is useless and futile
- We are false witnesses
- We are still in our sins and have no forgiveness
- We are to be pitied more than all men

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead

He appeared first to Mary Magdalene

Mark 16:9, “When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.”

He appeared to His disciples for 40 days

Acts 1:3 “After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”

He appeared to Peter and later to the Twelve and later to 500 men at the same time

1 Corinthians 15:5, “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that He was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time.”

He appeared to James, to all the apostles and to the apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:7, “Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also (Paul).”

He appeared to the angels. 1 Corinthians 3:16 “Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.”

He will appear to all believers

1 John 3:2, “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is Pure.”

He appeared to take away our sins.

1 John 3: 4, “Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him.”

What is meant by keeping on sinning?

Galatians 5:19, “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Sexual immorality. This is sex outside of marriage. Having sex with your girl friend with who you are not married. Having sex with a prostitute. Raping or forcing yourself on a girl who does not want to have sex with you.

Impurity This involves looking at pornography, watching dirty movies. Telling dirty stories or jokes.

Debauchery This is excessive eating and drinking and getting drunk.

Idolatry this is idol worship or worshipping anything that takes the place of God. Any thing that takes priority in your life over God.

Witchcraft Using magic or goings to persons who use magic.

Hatred Hate people instead of loving them. Gossip about people. Includes despising people, trying to destroy people. Going against people’s wishes.

Discord Quarreling, fighting, disagreeing all the time, arguing.

Jealousy Not being thankful when some one else advances in life.

Fits of rage Outburst of furious anger, shouting and humiliating people

Selfish ambition Putting self first. Trying to get one’s own way. Not being able to deny self. Always promoting self instead of promoting Christ.

Dissensions Angry quarreling, never agreeing and forming divisions.

Factions Destroy the unity be creating different groups. Splitting up a fellowship of people or church.

Envy Feeling disappointment because some one else has something you want to have.

Drunkenness Getting drunk from drinking to much beer, wine or whisky and losing control over words and actions.

Orgies Wild, drunken party often resulting in sex and group sex or rape.

God is warning us that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Praise God Jesus has appeared to take away our sin. But we must believe in Him, repent from our sin and glorify Him with a holy life and obedience to the instructions in His Word.