

A LIFE WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION

12 But 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.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 ESV

I. Our Preaching Is In Vain And Our Faith Is Worthless (vs 14-15)

If Christ has not been raised then our preaching is both empty and a false witness against God. And if Christ is not raised our faith is empty and useless. It's not going to do us any good. So what were these people in Corinth putting their faith in? They were like many people today who have faith that Jesus was a great teacher and a good example of the way of love. These people in Corinth believed that the stories of Jesus' resurrection were merely symbols pointing to the triumph of the human spirit, and that Jesus' influence is what still lived on after his death. These people in Corinth did not say, "The resurrection is all a myth so we must *reject* it." However, they did say, "The resurrection is all a myth and so we must *reinterpret* it."

II. We Are Still In Our Sins (vs 16-17)

If Christ was not raised, then his death accomplished nothing for the forgiveness of our sins. And if Christ accomplished nothing to remove the guilt and condemnation of our sins, then we are still in our sins and under the wrath of God. To be "in your sins" is the opposite of being "in Christ." When a person is "in Christ" they get what Christ can do for them - eternal life. However, when a person is "in their sins" they get what sin can do for them - eternal condemnation and death.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:20-23 ESV

But if the death of Jesus completely satisfied the Father's wrath towards sin, why does our text say that we are still in our sins if Jesus did not rise from the dead? The answer is that the resurrection of Jesus was the reward for his sacrifice. If the reward is not given, it is because his sacrifice was deficient. If God will not let his own Son go free from the grave and take his seat at his right hand in glory, it can only be because his sacrifice for our sins was defective. The resurrection of Jesus is what validates the infinite value of the blood of Jesus. If he is raised, then his sacrifice was sufficient, and all who trust in that sacrifice have been freed from the consequences of sin.

25 Jesus was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Romans 4:25 ESV

*Run, John, run, the law commands
But gives us neither feet nor hands,
Far better news the gospel brings:
It bids us fly and gives us wings.
Doubt not his sacrifice can save,
God sealed it with an empty grave.*

III. When We Die We Completely Perish (vs 18-19)

If there is no resurrection for Christ, there is no resurrection for anyone. Once someone is dead they forever cease to exist. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, Christian faith is completely worthless. It does not maintain any value at all. It's not even worth showing up to church once a year.

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

-C. S. Lewis

FIRST RESPONSE - COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS

DAY/TIME	LEADERS	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO
The First Sunday of Every Month at 6PM	Joel Webbon Rony Renfrow Stacy Craft	3240 Lowell St San Diego, CA 92106	469-487-6298 joel@theresponsechurch.com

MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

DAY/TIME	LEADERS	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO
Tuesday at 7PM	Joel & Megan Webbon	3240 Lowell St San Diego, CA 92106	469-487-6298 joel@theresponsechurch.com
Wednesday at 7PM	Jacob & Ally Merkey	3062 Malaga St. San Diego, CA 92106	713-385-6940 jacob@theresponsechurch.com
Thursday at 7PM	Rony & Danielle Renfrow	1676 Chatsworth Blvd San Diego, CA 92107	925-348-0128 rony@theresponsechurch.com
Thursday at 7PM	Stacy Craft	3328 Stern St. San Diego, CA 92106	704-778-2609 stacy@theresponsechurch.com