

# Did Jesus Really Rise From The Dead?!

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*For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.*

*~1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:16–19 (NASB)*

## 1) Empty-Handed Because Of A Powerless Gospel

- A) Anyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ has placed their trust in the content of the Gospel message, that Jesus died, was buried, and was resurrected on the third day, all according to plan (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3-4).
- B) Changing or omitting any part of the Gospel message results in an empty faith (“vain,” 15:2, 10) . ANY “other gospel” message is powerless and cannot save!
- C) Paul warned Timothy to “accurately handle the word of truth” (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:14-18) when certain teachers “upset the faith of some” by teaching a false gospel.
- D) In similar fashion, some in Corinth were falsely teaching against the “resurrection of the dead,” producing a vain faith (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:12). The truth and power of the true Gospel is on the line when faced with false teaching!

## 2) What If Jesus Really Didn't Rise From The Dead?

- A) Paul wonders, “if the true Gospel is being preached, why do I hear that some of you do not believe in the resurrection of the dead (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:12)? The Corinthians were melding a popular local teaching with the true Gospel!
- B) Following logic, Paul notes that if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ was not actually raised (15:13).
- C) If there is no resurrection of the dead, then all of the preaching of the apostles is empty, and the faith of the Corinthians is also empty and powerless to save (15:14)!
- D) Further, if there is no resurrection of the dead, the apostles of Jesus are false witnesses, actually turning people away from God instead of toward God (15:15).
- E) In fact, if God did not raise Jesus from the dead (15:16), the Corinthians are still entrapped in their sins (15:17), since Jesus’ death on the cross (cf. 15:3) did not conquer the penalty of sin (death, cf. Romans 6:23).
- F) If there is no resurrection from the dead, then all of those who have “fallen asleep in Christ” (died believing the Gospel preached by the apostles), will never be resurrected and are in eternal Hell in their sins (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:18).
- G) If there is no resurrection from the dead, then Jesus did not really have power over sin and death, which means that faith in Him in this life is pointless, because it is powerless and empty (15:19).
- H) If there is no resurrection from the dead, those who preach the Gospel and those who have believed in the Gospel are misguided, dangerous, pathetic, and to be pitied (15:19).

## 3) What Is The Message Of The Gospel In Your Life?

- A) If our message of the Gospel lacks the content of Jesus Christ’s life & death for sins, and/or His victory over sin & death (resurrection), we are dangerously misleading...