



(God with us) and that He can wash away our sins (Matthew 9:2-7).

By refusing the resurrection, the Corinthians refused the deity of Christ. Through the arrogant denial of Jesus' deity, they denied themselves of the forgiveness of sin. Even the scribes recognized this important point, **“who can forgive sins but God alone?”** (Mark 2:7).

CONCLUSION

In 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Paul simply shows, if there is no resurrection, what the

logical conclusions are. If there is no resurrection of the dead (1) the core of the gospel message is false, (2) the very things in which you have faith are gone, and (3) you are still living in your sins. If this is our worldview, **“if we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied”** (1 Corinthians 15:19). Paul goes on to state with conviction, **“But now Christ has been raised from the dead”** (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Perhaps there are some, but I have not yet met a Christian who refuses to believe in the resurrection. What then are we to take from a text like this? Paul handles this subject from a negative aspect to prove the resurrection, but for we who believe and are convinced of the resurrection, we can take great comfort in these points when stated positively. First, since Christ has been raised, the message we teach is filled with life and power and holds meaning for this life and the next. Second, since Christ has been raised, the faith that we have is not in the whims of mankind, but in the Creator of mankind. Third, since Christ has been raised, we can have our sins washed away by the blood of the risen Savior. Ultimately, since Christ has been raised, we have hope!



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ISSUE

15.43

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

October 27,
2013

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow



“If Christ Has Not Been Raised”

(1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

By Andrew Dow

The Scriptures warn us that there will come a time when people **“will not endure sound doctrine... and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths”** (2 Timothy 4:3-4, NASU). Peter warned that **“there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves”** (2 Peter 2:1). Such was the situation in Corinth when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians.

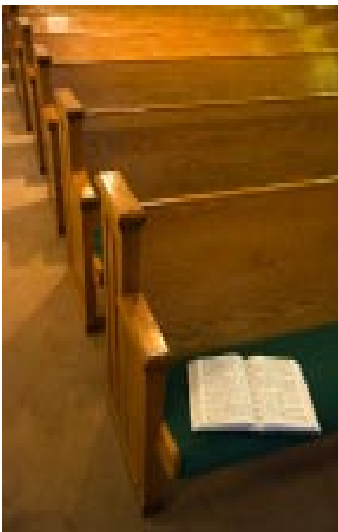
As we read 1 Corinthians 15 we cannot help but notice that there was a false teaching circulating among the brethren. We know this because something caused Paul to ask the question, **“Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?”** (1 Corinthians 15:12).

Clearly some Christians in Corinth had the idea that there would be no resurrection of the dead. Paul explained, **“if there**

is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised” (1 Corinthians 15:13, 16). This is the logical conclusion. With this in mind, Paul describes the danger of holding to such a view. He writes, “**If Christ has not been raised...**”

“...THEN OUR PREACHING IS VAIN”

Paul argues, “**If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain**” (1 Corinthians 15:14).



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Christians are given the responsibility to teach the lost of the world. Jesus commanded that we “**make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**” (Matthew 28:19-20). Paul instructed Timothy, “**The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also**” (2 Timothy 2:2). All Christians are to always teach the word (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

What is the word that we are to teach? If we are truly the people of God, we will find ourselves teaching the same message the Apostles taught immediately following Christ’s resurrection and ascension. With very few exceptions, the message taught included, and often built up to, *the resurrection of Jesus Christ* (Acts 2:23-24, 32, 36; 3:15; 4:10; 17:31; et. al.). The resurrection permeates the teaching of Christ’s disciples, as it should our teaching today. Simply put, if the resurrection of Christ is false, then all who have spread the message of His resurrection have wasted their time. Paul says later, “**Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised**” (1 Corinthians 15:15).

When the Corinthians suggested that the resurrection was implausible, they reduced the teaching of the gospel down to nothing. If Christ was not resurrected, then all efforts to teach that He was are worthless lies. On the other hand, if Christ did rise from the dead, He has proven Himself to be all-powerful and capable of saving us from our sins!

“...YOUR FAITH ALSO IS VAIN”

Paul continues pointing out this dangerous doctrine by asserting, “**If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless**” (1 Corinthians 15:17; cf. vs. 14b). Here Paul makes the implication much more personal. If those who preach the gospel emphasize Jesus’ resurrection, then those who accept their teaching must accept Jesus’ resurrection!

This is exactly what Paul is saying here. “**I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that HE WAS RAISED on the third day according to the Scriptures**” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4, emphasis mine). Paul concludes by saying, “**so we preach and so you believed**” (1 Corinthians 15:11).

As soon as the Corinthians accepted that there was no resurrection, they denied their own faith. Faith in Christ demands the belief in the resurrection. Paul told the Thessalonians, “**for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus**” (1 Thessalonians 4:14). How can one claim to have faith in Christ, yet deny the most basic point of such a faith?

“...YOU ARE STILL IN YOUR SINS”

Making one final argument, Paul said, “**If Christ has not been raised... you are still in your sins**” (1 Corinthians 15:18). Forgiveness of sins is Jesus’

promise to those who would follow Him. As He passed the cup on Passover, Christ said, “**this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins**” (Matthew 26:28). Paul later said that in Christ “**we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses**” (Ephesians 1:7). However, if Jesus was not resurrected following His death, His claims are no more valid than any human who had died before Him.

Jesus’ life and death is given significance in His resurrection! Having been raised from the dead, everything He said and did in His life is authenticated. Having been resurrected never to die again, Jesus accomplished something no one but God could accomplish. Only because Christ was resurrected can we have confidence that this was truly Immanuel