

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 43

Chapter 15: If There Be No Resurrection

30 March 2018

The Bible Doctrine of the resurrection of the dead is so important that Paul says if there were no resurrection, you would live your life without restraint and do whatever makes you feel good (vs 32), supposing you had nothing to look forward to after you die and cease to exist. Today we'll explore the consequences that result from denying the resurrection.

If you think you're going to die like a beast, you will live like a beast; with no conscience to guide your actions.

If you believe the Bible, you'll read it, study it, learn it, and then put what you learn into PRACTICE. Your faith will guide your actions and cause you to live your life according to biblical standards—because you know you'll be resurrected one day and have to answer to God for your actions.

SEVEN FRUITS OF DENYING THE RESURRECTION

1. **Our preaching is vain (vs 14).** We preach the Gospel. We tell people to believe on Jesus so they can be saved (Acts 16:31, Rom 10:9). If there is no resurrection; if you cease to exist when you die, there's nothing to be saved from. Everything we preach from the Bible would be a waste of time if we can't offer people a hope beyond the grave.
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2. **Your faith is also vain (vs 14).** If your hope is in good works, that is a vain hope. Your hope must be that Jesus Christ rose from the dead—or you have no hope.
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3. **We are found false witnesses of God (vs 15).** If you found out Christ didn't rise from the dead, you couldn't trust anything the apostles wrote—because they all preached the resurrection of Christ.
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4. **Your faith is vain (in a practical sense) (vs 17).** If you put your faith in someone who cannot help you, your faith is vain in a practical sense. 12-Step Programs teach you to put your faith in the "*higher power of your choice.*" That is a faith that will leave you in your sins and send you to hell. You may believe in "*Jesus the moral teacher*" or "*Jesus the healer*" or "*Jesus the son of Mary,*" etc, but if you don't put your trust in the **resurrected Lord Jesus Christ**, it doesn't matter what else you believe about Him; you'll die and lift up your eyes in hell (Luke 16:23).
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5. **Ye are yet in your sins (vs 17).** If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, that means He did not pay for your sins! If He didn't pay for your sins, you will die and stay dead.
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6. **Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished (vs 18)**. We'll never again see our loved ones who died trusting Jesus; they are gone forever—if Jesus Christ didn't rise from the dead. But if Jesus Christ rose from the dead, we have no reason to sorrow like the world at the death of a loved one. We know we'll see them again (1 Thess 4:13-14).
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7. **We are of all men most miserable (vs 19)**. Why would you spend your life trusting Jesus, denying yourself, and possibly suffering persecution for your faith in Him—if there is no resurrection?
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