

First Corinthians 15:12-19
Godward Resurrection part 2

Paul addresses a dangerous theological error being tolerated at Corinth—15:12

- 1) Correct Biblical preaching—15:12a ¹² *Now if* (1st class condition, assumed true for the sake of argument) *Christ is preached* [*kerusso*] (by all the witnesses in 15:5-8 and more) *that He has been raised from the dead,*
- 2) Tolerated theological error—15:12b *how do some among you^{pl} say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*
 - a) The false teaching communicated that people would simply be disembodied spirits. There was no place in their theology for an eternal physical body of any kind.
 - b) This was most likely a return to a remnant of their pre-Christian philosophy.

Paul's explanation of the logical ramifications of this error—15:13-19

- 1) The deadness of Christ—15:13-14a ¹³ *But if* (1st class condition, assumed true for the sake of argument) *there is no resurrection of the dead,*
 - a) *not even Christ has been raised;* ¹⁴ *and if* (1st class condition, assumed true for the sake of argument) *Christ has not been raised,*
 - b) Genuine Christianity depends on real historical events.
- 2) The emptiness of the gospel—15:14b-15
 - a) The content of the gospel—*then our preaching is empty* (emphatic)
 - b) The object of faith—*and your^{pl} faith is also empty* (emphatic).
 - c) The trustworthiness of the gospelizers—¹⁵ *Then we are even found to be false witnesses of God,*
 - i) *because we have testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise,*
 - (1) *if* (1st class condition, assumed true for the sake of argument) *in fact the dead are not raised* (by God).
- 3) The eternity of our guilt—15:16-19 ¹⁶ *For if* (1st class condition, assumed true for the sake of argument) *the dead are not raised,*
 - a) *not even Christ has been raised;* ¹⁷ *and if* (1st class condition, assumed true for the sake of argument) *Christ has not been raised,*
 - b) Applied to living believers
 - i) *your^{pl} faith is useless;*
 - ii) *you^{pl} are still* (emphatic) *in your^{pl} sins.*
 - c) Applied to deceased believers
 - i) ¹⁸ *Then also those who have fallen asleep* (cf. 7:39; 11:30; 15:6, 20, 51) *in Christ have perished* (been destroyed).
 - (1) ¹⁹ *If* (1st class condition, assumed true for the sake of argument) *in this life only* (emphatic) *we have hoped in Christ, we are more pathetic than all people.*