

Resurrection (Part 2) – No Rising, No Living - 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Now 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. Why is it that if Christ has not been raised from the dead, our faith is “futile” (v.14) and “in vain” (v.17), we are “still in [our] sins” (v.17), and “we are of all people most to be pitied” (v.19)?
2. Throughout this chapter, Paul emphasises the reality that if Jesus was physically raised from the dead, we will also all be physically raised from the dead at the day of Jesus’ return. If our physical bodies matter to God, how are we called to use our bodies now until we are resurrected with Christ?

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

3. What does it mean for you to worship the Lord with your body- with your whole physical being? How does that look for you in your work-life, social-life, family-life, etc?
4. Reflect: What ways of living and using your body right now are incongruent with what you say you believe? Confess these things to God, go to Him for healing, and commit yourself to Him as a living sacrifice.
5. Read v.19. How will it affect the way we live if we focus only on the hope we have in this *earthly* life as Christians? How will it affect the way we live if we focus only on the hope we have in *heaven*, disregarding the importance of our earthly life?

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)

6. If the gospel is true, then every person who does not know Jesus has only this life to try find hope in, without any hope for eternity. How does that reality inform how you use your finite time in this earthly body? What can you do this week to demonstrate and share the earthly and eternal hope found only in the resurrected Jesus? (A good opportunity to do this right now is to step out and invite a friend to Alpha to hear about and discuss who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Who in your life can you invite? Pray for them and reach out to them)