

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ Means We Will Be Too!

The Bad: Death

1. The only way to understand the goodness, magnificence & weight of the good news is to feel the weight of the bad news
2. The Spirit of the Age prefers not to make eye-contact with dead; it acts as if death is not waiting on us: Death is Coming!
3. The Resurrection of Jesus answers the question about death
4. Death is NOT a natural phenomenon of life, it is God's punishment for Sin (**Genesis 1-5**)
 - a. The wages of sin is death
 - b. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (**Rom 3:23**)
 - c. We were born into sin, enemies of God, guilty before Him
5. Why did God choose to kill us because of Sin? (**See Job 1:20-22**)
 - a. *To limit our desire to be gods and learn we are human*
6. Physical Death is NOT the end, not the Ultimate Judgment

The Ugly: Eternal Judgment

1. Rejecting Jesus as Lord and Savior means eternal wrath of God
 - a. **Hebrews 9:27, Mark 9:47-48**
2. God's judgment is appropriate, for He is Holy & Righteous
 - a. Good judges pass a guilty verdict for crimes
 - b. Sin has the weight of eternity; the greater the authority, the greater the weight of punishment
 - c. The longer we live, the longer our sinful list grows
 - d. One day this list will be read to the sinner (**Rev 20:11-15**)
3. Feelings of alarm or fright at this is God's kindness to you Now!
4. Loving speech is not always popular or comforting speech

The Rudimentary Doctrine of the Christian Faith (1 Cor 15:3-4)

1. Church members in Corinth were being persuaded that the resurrection of the body would not, could not happen
 - a. To Deny the Resurrection is to deny Christianity
2. A First Tier Issue of the Christian Faith
 - a. The Penal, Substitutionary Atonement of Jesus Christ
 - i. Penal: A price is paid for Sin – The Wages of Sin is Death
 - ii. Substitutionary: One pays the price for another – Jesus died for sinners on the Cross
 - iii. Atonement: The price paid satisfied the One bringing the charge against the offense – Jesus satisfied God's wrath on behalf of those whom He atoned for
 - b. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ makes it possible for Sinners to stand before God, saved by His magnificent Grace (**Romans 10:9-10**)
 - i. Justified: Declared Righteous, made right with God

The Implications of Disbelieving the Resurrection (1 Cor 15:12-20, 50)

1. SEVEN Logical Implications flowing from disbelieving the resurrection of the body
 - a. IF there is No resurrection of the body, Christ is not raised
 - i. Paul proved Jesus was raised from the dead (**vv 5-8**)
 - ii. The Hallucination Theory of the Resurrection – Wrong!
 - b. IF Christ is not raised, you are not forgiven of sin
 - i. No removal of guilt, condemnation, or wrath
 - ii. The death of Christ is the basis for our forgiveness of sins and justification before God (**Romans 5:8-9**)
 - iii. No resurrection = no penal, substitutionary atonement of Christ for sins, meaning you are still a sinner
 - c. IF you are still in your sins, then your faith is meaningless
 - i. Liberal Theology – Resurrection is just a symbol of love; faith in symbols, not substance, is nothing and produces nothing; faith like this is a waste of time
 - d. IF Christ is not raised, preaching is vain, lying, blasphemy
 - i. Preaching and evangelism would be meaningless; a great delusion of preachers of the Cross of Christ
 - ii. Preaching and evangelism would be a lie & blasphemy for it would say something God did not do
 - e. IF Christ is not raised, the Christian life is pathetic, foolish
 - i. Every good work, ethical habit, gain of wisdom, enjoyment of family, etc is vanity, vanity – all is vanity
 - ii. No resurrection means living a hopeless existence conforming your life to a standard you don't need to
 - f. IF Christ is not raised, believers die and perish
 - i. The life you live now is a prelude to eternity
 - ii. Death for sinners means Damnation
 - g. IF Christ is not raised, you will not be raised
 - i. The mortal, sinful perishable body cannot inherit the Kingdom of God – cannot go to Heaven, only the pit

The Magnificent Good News (1 Corinthians 15:20)

1. SINCE Christ is raised, we are forgiven (**Romans 4:24b-25**)
2. SINCE Christ is raised, our faith is sound
3. SINCE Christ is raised, our preaching is not vain, lying, blasphemy against God (**John 14:6**)
4. SINCE Christ is raised, our lives are meaningful, legitimate, & valuable – eternally significant (**1 Corinthians 15:58**)
5. SINCE Christ is raised, NO Christian shall perish, but enter into the joy of the Lord at his physical death or Christ's return (**1 Corinthians 15:51-53, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**)
6. And when we come to the end of our life we can stare death in the face and say, *"Death is swallowed up in victory! O death where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* (**vv 54-5**)