

The Resurrection Series, Part 2: Hard Truths

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I Corinthians 15:12-25 ¹²But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is worthless, and so is your faith. ¹⁵In that case, we are also exposed as false witnesses about God. For we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead, but He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If our hope in Christ is for this life alone, we are to be pitied more than all men. ²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own turn: Christ the firstfruits; then at His coming, those who belong to Him. ²⁴Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power. ²⁵For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. False teachers** from the Sadducee branch of Judaism had infiltrated the early church. V. 12
- B. A non-supernatural** Christianity is meaningless and powerless. V. 13-17
- C. If there is no resurrection from the dead, then there is no hope for those who have died. V. 18**
- D. We are to be pitied if the benefits are just practical earthly life blessings. V. 19**
- E. True Christianity has benefits that far outweigh just those that we get in this life. V. 20-21**
- F. All dominion, authority and power will be destroyed by the Kingdom of God which Christ is the head. V. 24-25**

II. How can we put these truths into practice?

- A. We must believe the truth of God's word.**
- B. The rocks of competing truths must be replaced by the truth in our minds.**
 - We believe in a supernatural Triune God who is uncreated.
 - The word of God is without error and is still as powerful as the day that it was written.
 - We are created beings in a created reality. We are sons of Adam. We did not evolve from nothing.
 - This life is the only chance that we have to follow Christ. There is no reincarnation or multiverse.
 - Only faith in Jesus Christ will allow you to be saved from death.
 - Angels and demons exist, and we are a part of a spiritual war that is waging.
 - What we do and believe matter!