

If There Be No Resurrection...

by John Isaac Edwards

There was a lot of controversy in the first century concerning the rising from the dead. The Sadducees denied it (Luke 20:27). In Athens, “When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: others said, We will hear thee again of this matter” (Acts 17:32). Some among the Corinthians said there is no resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12). Hymenaeus and Philetus said, “...the resurrection is past already” (2 Timothy 2:18). In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul points out some consequences, if there be no resurrection.

Then Is Christ Not Risen (vv. 13, 16). If it be true that there is no rising from the dead, then Christ is still in the grave. Think of the results, if Christ be not risen!

Our Preaching Is Vain (v. 14). Did you know that all of the sermons I have ever preached and you have ever heard have no meaning? If there be no resurrection of the dead!

Your Faith Is Also Vain (vv. 14, 17). You thought your faith was “precious” (2 Peter 1:1). That is not the case, if Christ be not raised!

The Apostles Are Found False Witnesses of God (v. 15). The apostles testified of God that He raised up Christ (Acts 2:32; 3:15; 5:31-32; 10:39-41; 13:30-31). They are all liars, if so be that the dead rise not!

Ye Are Yet in Your Sins (v. 17). You thought that when you were baptized your sins were washed away (Acts 2:38;

22:16). All that happened was you got wet, if Christ be not raised!

Then They Also Which Are Fallen Asleep in Christ Are Perished (v. 18). “Fallen asleep in Christ” is used of those who died in the Lord. What about folks like Stephen, who “fell asleep” (Acts 7:60)? They have all perished, if it be true that there is no resurrection of the dead.

We Are of All Men Most Miserable (v. 19). If the only hope we have in Christ is for things of this life, then we are most miserable! Why “endure hardness” (2 Timothy 2:3) and “suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12), if there is no hope of anything beyond this life?

Now, read the other side of this issue!

But Now Is Christ Risen from the Dead

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The Scriptures make it abundantly clear, “But now is Christ risen from the dead...” (1 Corinthians 15:20). Prophecy foretold it (Psalm 16:10). The surety of the sepulchre-sealing (Matthew 27:62-66), an empty tomb (Luke 24:3), testimony of the angel (Matthew 28:5-6), the grave clothes (John 20:5), the appearances of Jesus after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:5-8) and the testimony of the apostles (Acts 2:32) all uphold the truth “that he is risen from the dead” (Matthew 28:7). Since Christ is risen...

Our Preaching Is Not Vain. Preaching has

tremendous value! “...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21).

Your Faith Is Not Vain. Your faith is worth something! You are saved by it (Ephesians 2:8). Christ dwells in your heart by it (Ephesians 3:17). Promises of God are inherited through it (Hebrews 6:12). You please God with it (Hebrews 11:6).

The Apostles Are Found True Witnesses of God. They were guided “into all truth” (John 16:13). Many wonders and signs confirm their truthfulness (Acts 2:43; 5:12).

Ye Are Not Yet in Your Sins. Baptism saves by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead (1 Peter 3:20-21).

Then They Also Which Are Fallen Asleep in Christ Are Not Perished. Christ is “the firstfruits” (1 Corinthians 15:21-23). “...the dead in Christ shall rise” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

We Are Not of All Men Most Miserable. To die is gain; there is something “far better” than this life (Philippians 1:21-23).

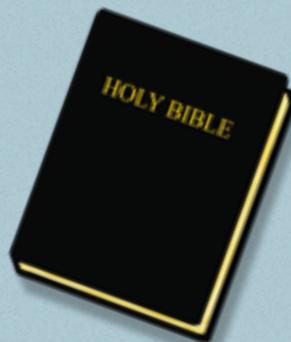
Therefore, be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding (1 Corinthians 15:58).

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