

## IS JESUS STILL IN THE GRAVE?

*J.P. Edwards*

The resurrection of the body of Jesus from the dead is the very foundation of our faith. The Bible affirms and external evidence proves that Jesus was laid in the grave dead, but came forth therefrom alive. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome entering into the tomb found the crucified one to be risen up from the dead (Mk. 16:1-9).

There are those who deny that Jesus was laid in the grave dead, but came forth therefrom alive. If Christ hath not been raised from the dead, several things follow as consequences. Paul addressed himself to the consequences of Christ non-resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

If Christ hath not been raised:

### OUR PREACHING IS VAIN.

The apostle Peter testified to the fact that Christ arose from the grave. *“This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses”* (Acts 2:32). The very center of gospel preaching is the resurrection of Christ. If Christ be not raised, there would be no value in gospel preaching. The good news that we preach is that Christ arose

from the grave. Paul said, *“The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commanded men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead”* (Acts 17:30-31).

### THE APOSTLES ARE

**LIARS.** *“Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God...”* The apostles testified that God raised Christ from the dead (Acts 2:24, 32; 3:13-15; 17:30-31). Their apostleship required that they be able to bear witness of His resurrection (Acts 1:21-22). Their mission as apostles was to be witnesses of God (Jn. 15:27). If Christ be not raised, the apostles cannot be believed at any point and our hope topples.

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## CALLS THAT COME OUR WAY

*Johnie Edwards*

There are a number of calls that come our way that we must answer. Some of these are conditional and some are not. Let's take a look at some:

### CALL OF ONE'S BIRTH.

The Bible records, *“A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted”* (Eccl. 3:2). We had no control over the circumstances of our physical birth, but we must learn to make the best of life after we are born.

### CALL OF THE GOSPEL.

God has chosen to call men to obey the truth by gospel preaching. Paul said, *“Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (2 Th. 2:14). The Holy Spirit revealed, *“...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe”* (1 Cor. 1:21). If you are waiting for God to call you to be a Christian, wait no longer; He has already called!

**CALL OF DEATH.** Death will come, sooner or later. The wise man said, *“For the living know that they shall die...”* (Eccl. 9:5). The apostle to the Hebrews penned, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die...”* (Heb. 9:27). The call of death is as sure as life itself. Are you ready for this call to come?

### CALL OF THE

**RESURRECTION.** One day, all will hear Christ call forth the dead, just as John wrote, *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear*

his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (Jn. 5:28-29).

**CALL OF THE JUDGMENT.**

Ready or not, after death and the resurrection, there will be the call of the judgment day. “*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*” (Heb. 9:27). Paul’s speech on Mars’ hill called upon “...all men every where to repent: Because he [God] hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31). Just as surely as our Lord resurrected from the dead, that’s how sure there will be a day of judgment. And, all of us will be there! “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*” (2 Cor. 5:10). This judgment will be universal in scope and individual in nature. “*So then every one of us*

*shall give account of himself to God*” (Rom. 14:12).

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**SPIRITUAL NOTS**

*John Edwards*

The word “not” appears more than 6,500 times in my Bible. It expresses prohibition: in now way; to no degree. I would like to make us aware of six (6) spiritual nots of the New Testament:

**AVENGE NOT**

**YOURSELVES.** Paul taught in Romans 12: “*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord*” (v. 19). To avenge is to take vengeance; get even. The Lord has always prohibited such. “*Thou shalt not avenge...*” (Lev. 19:18).

**LIE NOT ONE TO**

**ANOTHER.** These words are recorded in Colossians 3:9 with regard to putting off the old man. God never has tolerated lying (Acts 5:1-10). Ephesians 4:25 teaches, “...*putting away lying, speak every man truth...*”

**NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING.** Have you read Hebrews 10:25 lately? When we forsake the assembling by choosing not to assemble, we are guilty of willful sin (v. 26).

**SPEAK NOT EVIL ONE OF ANOTHER.**

James 4:11 says, “*Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother; speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law...*” Remember, love “*thinketh no evil*” (1 Cor. 13:5).

**SWEAR NOT.**

A lot of people today swear and think nothing of it. The Bible instructs us, “*But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation*” (Jas. 5:12). This reminds us of what Jesus said in Matthew 5:33-37.

**LOVE NOT THE WORLD.**

Such was the admonition of John in 1 John 2:15-17. Love of this world caused Demas to forsake the apostle Paul (2 Tim. 4:10). Friendship with the world makes one an enemy of God (Jas. 4:4).

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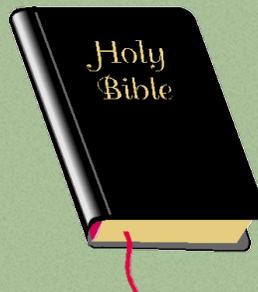
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