

If Christ Has Not Been Raised 1 Corinthians 15:14-20 4-4-10

I. Introduction.

- A. The resurrection of Christ is of the utmost importance.**
- B. Because Christ lives we can have life – a life of peace and joy here and now and life eternal in God’s presence.**

II. If Christ Has Not Been Raised ...

- A. Our preaching is useless (v.14).**
 - 1. What we say about Christ would be meaningless.**
 - 2. The gospel of the risen Christ is the message God uses to save everyone who believes (see Rom. 1:16).**
- B. Our faith is useless (v.14).**
 - 1. Our trust is in a risen Christ who gained victory over the grave; if Christ is still in his tomb, then we have been deceived and our faith is in vain.**
 - 2. God doesn’t reward “generic” faith; God rewards those who diligently seek him (see Heb. 11:6).**
- C. Christ’s Apostles are false witnesses (v.15).**
 - 1. The Apostles said they saw the risen Christ; if Christ was not raised the Apostles are liars.**
 - 2. If the Apostles lied about the resurrection, how can we trust anything they said about Christ?**
- D. We would still be in our sins (v.17).**
 - 1. When Christ was crucified he became a sin offering for us (see 2 Cor. 5:21 and 1 John 2:2).**
 - 2. Christ’s resurrection proves that God the Father was satisfied with his Son’s sacrificial death.**
- E. Those who died trusting in Christ would be lost (v.18).**
 - 1. Christians have died trusting in God’s promise that all who accept Christ receive eternal life.**
 - 2. If the resurrection is a lie, then there’s a good chance that the promise of eternal life is a lie.**
- F. Christians are to be pitied more than all men (v.19).**
 - 1. If Christ is still in his grave, we Christians would be one sorry group.**
 - 2. The good news is that “He is risen!” and when he returns we shall be like him (v.20 and 1 John 3:2).**

III. Conclusion.

- A. If you’ve never accepted Christ as Savior and Lord, I encourage you to accept him today.**
- B. Give your life to Christ so that he can give his life to you.**