

**“RAISE THE DEAD”**  
**(2018 Resurrection Day Series)**  
**Studies in 1 Corinthians 15**

**Background:** *Apparently the Corinthian Christians had been influenced by the Greek philosophy that surrounded them and from which they had come before believing the gospel. Greek teaching stressed that the spiritual part of man was good and that the physical body was bad. This school of thought believed that at death a person's soul (the spiritual part of people) was freed from the physical body which decomposed and was forever gone. The thought of resurrecting the body was abhorrent to pagan Greek philosophy prevalent in that day. Apparently, some false teachers were trying merge Greek philosophy with Christian doctrine. Perhaps they taught that when a believer dies, the soul/spirit is liberated and that is the end of it. This attempt to accommodate both views caused serious theological ramifications and consequences that the apostle Paul now addresses in 1 Corinthians 15.*

**The Law of Resurrection**  
**We fall or rise together**

*“Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead (vs 3-4), how do **some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen”.* **15:12-13**

**Christ's resurrection is inseparably linked to ours**

*Becoming a Christian merges one's life to Christ's, including His being raised from the dead. Since Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for everyone, so is His resurrection-- some unto everlasting life; some to eternal condemnation (John 5:22-30).*

**The Logic of Resurrection**

**If we stay dead, the gospel is dead, also**

*“And if Christ is not risen, then our **preaching is empty** and your faith is also empty. Yes, and **we are found false witnesses of God**, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, Whom He did not raise up – if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.”* **15:14-16**

**Christian ministry is a terrible lie without resurrection**

*Preaching is empty (no substance or validity); faith is empty (self-deception) (preachers and missionaries misrepresent God to people who won't be raised; (things based upon resurrection: the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Great White Throne judgment, the Millennium, the Lake of Fire)- If people aren't raised, then Christ, Who also had a physical body, wasn't raised and we all perish.*

**The Lord of Resurrection**  
**If He is dead, we are mentally ill**

*“And if Christ is not risen, **your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!** Then also **those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, **we are of all men the most pitiable**”.* 15:17-20

**Christianity is just pathetic ‘positive thinking’ without resurrection**

*Resurrection is required for our faith to have legitimate content and for sin to be expunged from our record before God... without assurance of a future resurrection, believers who die don't go to heaven, they just perish. Thinking we will be raised to life is just a nice fantasy for this life-- we are lunatics!*

**“BUT... ..now Christ IS RISEN from the dead and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep!!!”** 15:20

<b>Evidence that Jesus Actually Died &amp; Arose</b> <i>This evidence demonstrates Jesus' uniqueness in history and proves that He is God's Son.            No one else was able to predict His own resurrection and then accomplish it.</i>		
Erroneous Explanations for the Empty Tomb	Evidence against these Explanations	References
Jesus was only unconscious and later revived.	A Roman soldier told Pilate that Jesus was dead.	Mark 15:44-45
	The Roman soldiers did not break Jesus' legs because He had already died, and one of them pierced Jesus' side with a spear.	John 19:32-34
	Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus wrapped Jesus' body and placed it in the tomb.	John 19:38-42
The women made a mistake and went to the wrong tomb.	Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw Jesus placed in the tomb.	Matthew 27:59-61; Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55
	On Sunday morning, Peter and John also went to the same tomb.	John 20:3-9
Unknown thieves stole Jesus' body.	The tomb was sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers	Matthew 27:65-66
The disciples stole Jesus' body.	The tomb was guarded and sealed.	Matthew 27:66

**Conclusion:** *If Christians are not headed for a future, literal, physical resurrection from the dead, things need to change: baptism – no ‘up out of the water’; Lord’s Supper – stop the bread and cup; let’s just put flowers on a grave; no need to witness – unbelievers have nothing to worry about; don’t be public about your feelings for Jesus – why invite unnecessary persecution? Don’t bother keeping Resurrection Day or worshiping on the first day of the week; mourn with all your heart at funerals, because it’s goodbye forever; don’t bother to volunteer for Christian service and waste your time; etc., etc., etc.... **But if it’s true that Jesus is alive and that He will raise us... we need to get ready to meet Him on Judgment Day.***