

Studies In First Corinthians

(I Corinthians 15:12-23)

1. What were some in Corinth saying about the resurrection?

That there is no resurrection: *“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead” (I Corinthians 15:12)?*

- Not all people believe in a bodily resurrection (**Matthew 22:23, Acts 23:8, Acts 26:1-8, and II Peter 3:1-10**).

2. If there is no resurrection, what would that say about our faith?

It would be vain: *“(13) But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: (14) And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain” (I Corinthians 15:13-14).*

- Everything we hope for is in the resurrection (**Acts 24:15** and **I Peter 1:3**).
- Our assurance would be vain (**Acts 17:31**).

3. If there is no resurrection, what would that mean about the witnesses who had testified of the resurrection of Christ?

They would be false witnesses for if there is no resurrection Christ could not have been risen: *“(15) Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. (16) For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised” (I Corinthians 15:15-16).*

- If the Apostles and others who testified of Christ being resurrected were false witnesses, that would discredit everything they said (**Proverbs 12:17** and **Proverbs 14:5**).
- That would mean they were not teachers of the truth (**I John 2:21**).
- That would also mean that Christ was not raised and is still in hades and the prophets were wrong too (**Psalms 16:10** and **Acts 2:26-31**).
- If Jesus is not risen, our hope is gone (**I Peter 1:21**).

4. If there is no resurrection, what would that mean about our salvation?

We'd [those who have obeyed the Gospel and continue therein] still be in our sins: *“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins” (I Corinthians 15:17).*

- The resurrection of Christ certainly is tied into our redemption (**Matthew 20:18-19, Luke 24:44-47, Romans 4:24-25, and Romans 8:33-34**).

5. If there is no resurrection, what would that mean about Christians who have died?
They'd be gone, never to live again: *"Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished"* (**I Corinthians 15:18**).

- How comforting would that be (cf. **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**)?

6. If our hope were only in Christ, without the hope of the resurrection, what joy would we have?

None: *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable"* (I Corinthians 15:19).

- If all we have is life in this world, that stinks (**Ecclesiastes 1:12, Ecclesiastes 1:14, Ecclesiastes 2:1, Ecclesiastes 2:11, Ecclesiastes 2:15, Ecclesiastes 2:17, Ecclesiastes 2:19, Ecclesiastes 2:21, Ecclesiastes 2:23, Ecclesiastes 2:26, Ecclesiastes 3:19, Ecclesiastes 4:4, Ecclesiastes 4:7-8, Ecclesiastes 4:16, Ecclesiastes 5:7, Ecclesiastes 5:10, Ecclesiastes 6:2, Ecclesiastes 6:4, Ecclesiastes 6:9, Ecclesiastes 6:11, Ecclesiastes 7:6, Ecclesiastes 7:15, Ecclesiastes 8:10, Ecclesiastes 8:14, Ecclesiastes 9:9, Ecclesiastes 11:8, and Ecclesiastes 11:10**).

7. After we surpass the "what ifs", what did Adam bring into the world that Jesus has conquered?

Adam brought death, but the resurrection of our Savior is the represents victory over death: *"(20) But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. (21) For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive"* (**I Corinthians 15:20-22**).

- **Romans 5:12-21**.
- Jesus conquered death (**II Timothy 1:10**).
- Thus, we can look to Christ for hope in the resurrection (**John 11:25**).
- He was the firstfruits of the resurrection (**See next question**).

8. Who was the firstfruits of the resurrection our hope rests in?

Jesus: *"But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming"* (**I Corinthians 15:23**).

- **Colossians 1:15-18** and **Revelation 1:5**.