

And If Christ Be Not Risen...

I. Introduction:

A. We regularly remember the Lord's death (**Luke 22:13-22**; cf. **I Corinthians 11:23-33**).

1. We will continue to do so until His return (**I Corinthians 11:26**).
2. This is one way we are reminded, at least every first day of the week (**Acts 20:7**), that Jesus was sacrificed for a reason (**I Peter 3:18**).

B. One difference in considering the death of Christ and the resurrection, is instead of looking backwards in remembrance; the resurrection has us looking forward in anticipation (**I Thessalonians 1:9-10**).

II. Body: **I Corinthians 15:1-22**

A. Jesus had to be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again (**Matthew 16:21** and **Matthew 17:22-23**).

1. His death, and events surrounding it, was in accordance with the Scriptures (**Zechariah 11:12-13** [cf. **Matthew 27:1-9**], **Psalms 22:18** [cf. **John 19:23-24**], **Psalms 34:20** [cf. **John 19:32-36**] **Psalms 69:21** [cf. **John 19:28-30**], etc.).
2. As was His resurrection (**Psalms 16:10**; cf. **Acts 2:22-31**).
3. This enabled then and now to preach Christ even through the prophets (**Acts 26:22-23**).

B. His resurrection was witnessed and testified of (**Luke 24:47-48**, **Acts 2:32**, and **Acts 3:13-15**).

1. Those that had been with Him were witnesses (**John 15:27**).
2. As were others (**Acts 13:29-31**).
3. The evidence was so compelling that the enemies of the truth sought to try and cover it up (**Matthew 28:11-15**), but could not (**Acts 1:1-3** and **Acts 10:39-41**).

C. Without the resurrection, our faith would be in vain because the place of Christ as our Savior requires Him to have been raised and exalted (**Acts 5:30-32**).

1. Our assurance rests with the resurrection of Christ (**Acts 17:31**).
2. Our hope is in life hereafter (**Colossians 1:5**), which first was shown through Christ being risen from the dead (**Colossians 1:18** and **I Peter 3:21-22**).

D. The resurrection is our lively hope, the realization of our salvation (**I Peter 1:3-21**).

1. Though doubts abound around us, we are to be prepared for the coming of Christ (**II Peter 3:1-14**).
2. Therefore, look to Jesus who has been here and done that (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).

III. Conclusion: The question left to each of us is, what side will you be on (**John 5:28-29**)?