

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com
E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE

What if there were no Resurrection?

SERIES

DATE

4/7/2024

KEY SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 15:12-19ff

SYNOPSIS

The Resurrection of Christ makes all the difference in the world and eternity.

HIGHLIGHTS



☛ What If There Were No Resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19ff

if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

The Resurrection. We celebrated this historical event last Sunday. This is the one big event that makes or breaks the church of Jesus Christ! Without this event in history, Christianity will fall apart.

The Apostle Paul made it crystal clear that no middle ground exists. If you want to prove Christianity is a farce, a delusion, and a cop-out for millions, all you've got to do is prove the resurrection of Jesus Christ is as phony as a 3-dollar bill. So, the Resurrection is history or hoax, miracle or myth, fact or fiction.

A former sceptic by the name of Josh McDowell puts it this way... "After more than 700 hours of studying this subject, and thoroughly investigating its foundation, I have come to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the 'most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men, or it is the most fantastic fact of history.'" And, of course, he wholehearted believes it to be fact.

Hank Hanegraff who heads up CRI (Christian Research Inst.) wrote this: "The Resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian faith — without it there would be no Christianity. It elevates Christianity above all other world religions. Through the Resurrection, Christ demonstrated that He does not stand in a line of peers with Abraham, Buddha, Confucius, or Muhammad. Jesus Christ is utterly unique. He had the power not only to lay down His life, but also to take it up again."

What would it be like if there were no resurrection? Many people ask "what if" questions like...

Silly "what ifs."

What if you won the lottery?

What if you could only communicate by breaking out into song?

What if you had to pick one food to eat every day for the rest of your life?

Philosophical "what ifs."

What if you could choose to forget certain memories?

What if you woke up tomorrow and your entire life was a dream?

What if you had the chance to change one event in history?



This is a big “what if” question. What if there were no resurrection?

☞ **Preaching would be pointless**

v. 14 if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless

10-point, 5-point, 3-point sermons...

☞ **Faith would be futile**

v. 18 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile

The implications of what is at stake are clear – If Christ has not been raised from the dead, Christians are the most pitiable people in the world. We are to be pitied because if there is no resurrection, death has won and it is the final word. If it is the final word, the world should pity Christians because we are wasting the finite amount of time we have to live on something that isn't true. But more than that, we are to be pitied because we have no hope if Christ has not been raised from the dead. If there is no bodily resurrection, then when we stare death in the face, we have no grounds for hope because it is the last word. It will ultimately win. Faith would be futile.

☞ **Disciples would be deceitful**

v. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God...

And, all our proclamations about the bible and faith would be false.

☞ **Sin would be sovereign**

v. 17 if Christ has not been raised... you are still in your sins.

He nailed our sins to the cross, but by his resurrection, he overcame them.

☞ **Death would have dominion**

v. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

Without the resurrection, then the evolutionists are right and when you die, that's it.

☞ **Future would be fearful**

v. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

I mean, what's the point? In fact, Solomon thought about that in Ecclesiastes and determined that it would be better to just splurge on this life and indulge in everything, since there's no future beyond death.

But there is a resurrection. He *is* alive. He keeps his promise. There *is* something wonderful in your ☞ future. Every point in this message reversed, is what it is like **because of the resurrection.**

☞ **Preaching is powerful**



v. 9-10 I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

☞ God's Word is like a hammer, a fire; and a sword. **The preaching of God's Word is powerful to break hardened hearts, to burn out sinful behavior and to cut with conviction to the core of your soul.**

☞ Faith is fruitful

v. 21-22 ...since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.
58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is **not in vain**.

☞ What we do because of our faith is not a waste of time. Faith is fruitful. **It produces transformed lives. It can lead to healings and miracles. Ultimately, it leads to eternal life.**

☞ Disciples are dependable

v. 30-32 as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? 31 I die every day — I mean that, brothers — just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained?

Paul and the rest of the disciples were willing to put their lives on the line for what they were proclaiming. Their testimony and their words are reliable.

☞ *Using the same criteria by which we judge other historical works, not only is **the Bible reliable, it is more reliable than any other comparable writings.** Not only have many of its historical details been confirmed, but certain portions that were once in doubt have been verified by later archaeology.* And, there's a lot more evidence. This same book that has proven to be true over and over again, also proclaims that Jesus rose from the grave. So, those who teach and preach accurately from the Word are dependable.

☞ Sin is shackled

v. 56-57 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:21 says that he was named Jesus, because he would save people from their sins. And

☞ Romans 6 says that sin is no longer our master because we have been set free from sin. **We used to be slaves to sin, but now sin is the slave.**

☞ Death is defeated



v. 54-55 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

☞ **Death is not the end. It's just a transition!**

☞ **Future is fabulous**

☞ v. 42-45 The body... is raised **imperishable**... it is raised in **glory**... it is raised in **power**... it is raised a **spiritual** body.

49 just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

When Jesus appeared after his resurrection he was in his spiritual body. He had flesh and bones, but also could apparently pass through solid objects and instantaneously appear out of thin air. He could fly in some form because he ascended to heaven while the disciples watched. Our future is fabulous. That's just what our bodies will be like. There's plenty more if you look into the Holy City we get to live in.

So, what if there were no resurrection? Life is hopeless, pointless, and meaningless. But since there was a resurrection, life is extremely meaningful and full of hope. Since Jesus rose from the dead, we also will be raised.

So what? How does that alter my life? Well, if Jesus is able to rise from the dead, and we have that same kind of future ahead, it will have a profound effect on the decisions made in life.

Jesus said "... I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.?" (John 14:2-3,).

What a hope! Hope that's not wishing for something that may or may not happen. Hope that is not ☞ mere wishful thinking. Hope that's not a gamble, but a winning hand. **Hope makes an enormous difference in the way you view life.** Hope gives new energy and joy. Hope will help us endure a world that is not perfect. Hope reaches out with news, that though this world is threatening and filled with suffering, death is not the final episode.

You see, it was the empty tomb of Jesus that caused the cowardly disciples who deserted Him on Good Friday to become lions of the Christian faith after the resurrection on Sunday. Lions who faced hardships, persecution, and even execution, because they knew if they died they would be in a better place with Jesus, who is Lord over all, even death! He has been raised and we will be ☞ as well. **Yes, there is a resurrection!**