

## **“If Christ Has NOT Been Raised”**

### **EASTER 2013**

#### **Intro:**

- What we are here to celebrate is called the Resurrection
- Christians believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a perfect (sinless) life in our place, was crucified in our place & rose from the grave to give us life-victory over the power of sin both now & in the life to come
- Now we live 2000 ish years from when Jesus was reported as raised from the dead- do we *really* believe that this is still true?
- In our day, aren't we a little tempted to just dismiss this as something that only primitive people would believe in
- But, before we just settle down & say that we only need Christianity for how it effects us in this life on earth to make us “better” people, what are we forfeiting if Christ was not raised?

#### **If Christ Has NOT Been Raised:**

- 1 Corinthians 15:14-15- “And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain & your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:17-19- “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile & you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

#### **1. Our Preaching Is In Vain & We're Misrepresenting God**

#### **2. “Our Faith Is Futile/In Vain”**

#### **3. “We Are Still In Our Sins”**

- Romans 3:23- “for all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God”
- Isaiah 64:5b-7- Even our righteous deeds are disgusting to Him!
- That means that He's not for us, He's against us (Romans 8)
- It means, God doesn't love us- He hates us (1 Jn 4)
- We don't have “confidence” - we are not approaching a “Throne of Grace/ Mercy,” but one of Wrath & Judgment (Heb 4)
- He's not your friend, He's your enemy (James 4)
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#### **4. “Those Who Are Asleep In Christ Have Perished”**

- Galatians 2:21- Not even 1 person could have met the standards of the Law to please God w/out a Perfect Substitute

#### **If Christ HAS Been Raised:**

- 1 Cor 15:20- “**But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead...**”
- Philippians 3:4-11- Paul walks away from a life of pursuing perfection because he thought that was what it took to please God unaware that all of his rule keeping had led to sinful self-righteousness that was making God furious, not happy b/c Paul was essentially saying that He could save Himself & didn't need a Savior, didn't need the precious spilt blood of the Only Son
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8- **FACTS: Empty Tomb, Hundreds of Eye-witnesses & Changed Lives**
- 1 Corinthians 15:22-23- “For as by a man came death, by a man has come also

the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

- **RESPONSE:**
- Acts 2:22-24- “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God w/ mighty works & wonders & signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know-- this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan & foreknowledge of God, **you crucified & killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.**”
- Acts 2:36-38- “Let all the house of Israel therefore **know for certain** that God has made him both Lord & Christ, **this Jesus whom you crucified.**” Now when they heard this **they were cut to the heart**, & said to Peter & the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “**Repent & be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, & you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”