**IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED**

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

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**INTRODUCTION**

There have been numerous theories advanced against the Resurrection of Christ by non-believers, atheists, and skeptics. Some have used the angel’s words, “He is not here,” as an argument that the women and the disciples went to the wrong tomb. That argument is silly since it ignores that an angel spoke those words and ended the sentence with “but he is risen as he said.” Do you really think all of the people would go to the wrong tomb? Rather strange, would you not think? Another argument is that Jesus swooned, or fainted, while on the cross but did not die. Then, in the cool tomb, he revived. Another silly argument since he was pierced with a spear in the side and out flowed blood and water, indicating He died of a broken heart. Ah, unbelievers! They are such foolish people in trying to deny the obvious. Look at Paul’s reasoning.

1. **SOME WERE SAYING THERE IS NO RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (v. 12).**
2. No resurrection? Then Jesus is still **dead** (vv. 13, 16).
3. No resurrection? All preaching is **useless** (v. 14).
4. No resurrection? Our faith is **futile** (v. 17).
5. No resurrection? We are still lost in our sins and **without** **hope** (v. 17).
6. No resurrection? Those who died in Christ are **gone** and **lost** forever (v. 18).

*If there is no hope in Christ except in* ***this*** *life, then we are worse off than the unbelievers who lived a worldly life (v. 19). Our lives will have been wasted on fables, fairy tales, and imaginary stories; and we are truly to be pitied.*

1. **BUT CHRIST *HAS BEEN* RAISED FROM THE DEAD (v. 20).**
2. Over **500** saw the risen Lord on **11** different occasions, with many still **alive** (vv. 3-8).
3. As sin & death entered through **Adam**, so life & salvation come through **Jesus** (v. 22).
4. Stop being **misled** by those who say there is no resurrection (v. 33).
5. Be forewarned that “**bad** company corrupts **good** character” (v. 33).
6. Regain your senses and stop **sinning** (v. 34).

*Those who were saying there is no resurrection were using that claim to justify living sinful, immoral lives. Paul says such people are ignorant of God and are deceiving themselves and immature believers. He boldly states that such people should be ashamed.*

**CONCLUSION**

Many of the eyewitnesses who saw the Resurrected Lord were still alive when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians around A.D. 52—only 20 years or so after the death and resurrection of Christ. They were living historians who were there to see the most significant even(s) in history. Not only that gives credence to the belief in the resurrection of the Lord, but also the fact that a group of fearful, disillusioned disciples changed into fearless, visionary witnesses following the resurrection validates that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. No one would willingly die for a fairy tale made up in a Passover Plot. Only the confidence that they were serving and proclaiming a LIVING Lord would explain such a change. Yes, Jesus is alive! He did come back from the grave, and our faith is not in vain! We shall see Him bye and bye! Hallelujah!

*“Hallelujah! Jesus is alive, death has lost its victory, and the grave has been denied.*

*Jesus lives forever. He’s alive! He’s alive!*

*He’s the Alpha and Omega, the first and last is He.*

*The curse of sin is broken, and we have perfect liberty.*

*The Lamb of God has risen; He’s alive! He’s alive! Hallelujah, Jesus is alive!”*