

The Wednesday Word, April 22, 2015: What If? - Part 2

1 Corinthians 15:12-21

Last time we asked the question, “What if Christ had not risen from the dead.” We discovered that, if Christ were not raised, preaching would be pointless, faith would be useless, the disciples were liars, and we cannot rely on the New Testament.

We also began to consider that if Christ were not raised, we are yet in our sins (1 Corinthians 15:17). We are not forgiven. We stated that God, in His holiness, cannot sweep sin under the carpet. He must punish sin! He must punish either the sinner or the sinner’s substitute.

However, if Christ is yet in the grave, this means that the Father did not accept the sacrifice of Calvary. And that means we are yet in our sins! If Christ were not raised from the dead, then the blood saved no one. If Jesus is still in the grave, we have no forgiveness.

But Christ was raised from the dead. The sacrifice of Calvary was accepted. If there had been anything lacking in Christ’s life or death, the Father would have left Him in the grave. In other words, the Resurrection is the Father’s “Amen” to the doing and dying of Christ!

But, what if Christ remained in the grave? According to our passage, it’s serious trouble for believers. If Christ is not risen then those who have fallen asleep (died) in Christ have perished (1 Corinthians 15:18). They are gone, it’s over. Finito!

Furthermore, if Christ is still in the grave, Christianity is a cruel hoax. We have built our hope on the fact that we serve a living, risen Saviour who is coming back for us ... but, He’s not coming back for anyone if He’s still in the grave. Those who have died as Christians have perished. We have nothing to look forward to. All we can see is the slow approach of the spindly, icy fingers of death as they prepare to claim us. If Christ is not risen, we are without hope!

But now is Christ risen. He’s off the cross, He’s out of the grave and He’s alive forevermore. That’s worth a strong Hallelujah!

Our God came here in Christ, tackled the strong and steely bars of death and won the victory over it. But, if Christ is not risen from the dead, the future is fearful. We are in misery! What is your future? Where are you headed?

Albert Einstein was a very famous scientist. However, brilliant as he was, the poor man suffered terribly from absent- mindedness. One day as he sat on the train, the conductor approached asking for tickets. Einstein searched in all his pockets without any success. He just couldn’t find his ticket. The kindly conductor said; “It’s all right Professor, I know you well enough to know that you bought a ticket. Don’t worry about it!”

As the conductor turned and walked away, he looked back and saw the good Professor down on his hands and knees searching under the seat. Once more he said; “It’s all right, Professor, I trust you. I know you bought a ticket. Don’t worry about it.” Einstein looked up at the man and said, “I know you know I bought a ticket, but I need to find it because I need to know where I’m going.” All of us need to know where we are going! We need the assurance that Christ has risen from the

grave. We need the confidence that He has conquered death on our behalf.

Do you have that assurance and confidence?

Someone said it like this; "If Jesus stayed in the grave, then nothing really matters. But if Jesus rose from the grave then nothing else matters."

He is alive. Death is dead. Christ has conquered!

And that's the Gospel Truth!