

# BRO, DID CHRIST EVEN RISE?

—MESSY ( BUT BEAUTIFUL ) CHRISTIANITY, WEEK 52—

*1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NIV)*

## I. THE CORINTHIAN \_\_\_\_\_ OF ( OUR ) \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>12</sup> But 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?

## II. THE \_\_\_\_\_ IMPLICATIONS: A \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ RELIGION

<sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead,  
then not even Christ has been raised.

<sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised,  
our preaching is useless  
and so is your faith.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

## III. THE \_\_\_\_\_ IMPLICATIONS: A \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ RELIGION

<sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised,  
then Christ has not been raised either.

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised,  
your faith is futile;  
you are still in your sins.

<sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

<sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ,  
we are of all people most to be pitied.

## IV. 10 WAYS JESUS' RESURRECTION BEST EXPLAINS THE EARLY CHURCH

1. It explains the traditions of the empty tomb.
2. It explains the traditions of the appearances of the risen Jesus.
3. It explains the “strangeness” of how the disciples sometimes didn't recognize Jesus when he appeared.

4. It explains why belief in Jesus' resurrection was universal in the early church.
5. It explains why the church held to this unexpected, counter-cultural idea of resurrection.
6. It explains why Christians did not turn to easier concepts than resurrection.
7. It explains why Sunday replaces the Sabbath for worship.
8. It explains why the earliest Christian preaching focused on the resurrection of Jesus, not the teachings of Jesus.
9. It explains why the early Christians were willing to die for this proclamation.
10. It explains why we have no evidence of tomb veneration or second burial.

## THE BOTTOM LINE

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

...by \_\_\_\_\_ “\_\_\_\_\_” of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

...by \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and his sacrifice for your forgiveness.

...by pledging your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Recommended Book: Tim Keller, *Hope in Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter* (2021)**

“Does all this *prove* beyond a shadow of rational doubt that the resurrection of Jesus Christ actually occurred? As Wright and others point out, no event in past history can be empirically proven the way something can be tested in a laboratory....

What this means is that, on the one hand, the use of human reason alone cannot force us to believe in the resurrection. There is room for intellectual doubt of most any historical event. On the other hand, we can see that belief in the resurrection of Christ is *not* a blind leap of faith. It has left an enormous footprint, as it were, in history. This is why it ‘poses that kind of challenge to the larger worldview of both the historian and the scientist.’ Resurrection faith is not blind belief that rejects human reason—it ‘transcends but includes what we call history and what we call science.’

Indeed, almost nothing important that we base our lives on can be demonstrably proven. Our moral values, our beliefs about human nature, our beliefs about whether the material universe was its own cause or was created by God—all of these fundamental assumptions about reality come through a combination of reasoning, evidence, and faith. Can we *know*, for example, that all humans have equal dignity and human rights? Although there is much evidence for that belief, human rights cannot be scientifically proven so that a skeptic would be forced to accept them. And can we *know* that the resurrection happened? Even if you come to believe on rational grounds, that the resurrection of Jesus probably happened you still must exercise faith to become a Christian” (Keller, 14-15).