

Ohio Bible Fellowship

Winter Conference

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The Transforming Power of the Resurrection

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Series introduction: The fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians often appears in our preaching to define the gospel or as a proof-text for Christ's resurrection. However, if we carefully trace the path of Paul's thought through the entire chapter, we find that his concerns were not just theological. He argued that the believer's hope of resurrection is the foundation for Christian living. Confident assurance of this future hope transforms the believer's present behavior. The reality of our resurrection is essential to the Christian worldview.

In this conference we will explore four passages that develop this idea:

1. What If There Is No Resurrection? 15:12-19
2. Jesus Lives and So Shall I! 15:20-28
3. The Purifying Hope 15:29-34
4. Secure Hope in an Insecure World 15:50-58

Message One

What If There Is No Resurrection?

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12–19 (ESV)

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and

you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Introduction: Paul exposed the error of false teachers who were troubling the church in Corinth. They insisted that bodily resurrection is impossible. He laid a tightly formed and irrefutable argument: if the dead cannot rise, then Christ did not rise. He then demonstrates the tragic outcome of that hypothetical position.

I. If there is no resurrection, the gospel is false, . . . 12-13

- A. Since the gospel declares Christ is risen, Christians cannot deny resurrection. 12
- B. On the contrary, if those who deny resurrection are right, the gospel is wrong. 13

II. its messengers are liars, . . . 14-16

- A. The apostles' labor and success was useless. 14
- B. The apostles' testimony was dishonest. 15-16

III. and none who believe them have any hope. 17-19

- A. Without the resurrection, gospel believers have no forgiveness. 17
- B. Without the resurrection, gospel believers who die are condemned. 18
- C. Without the resurrection, gospel believers live the most pitiful lives. 19

Today's take-home truth: If there is no resurrection, the gospel is false, its messengers are liars, and none who believe them have any hope.