

March 24, 2021

Effects of False Teaching

Last week we considered the importance of the resurrection of Christ. In I Corinthians 15:1-4 we saw that the resurrection is one of the pillars of the gospel. If any one of the pillars of the gospel are removed, the entire doctrine of the gospel collapses, making the gospel of none effect. This week we want to begin looking at the effects of the false teaching that says there is no resurrection. Read again **I Corinthians 15:12-20**. Paul preached the resurrection of Christ, but there were false teachers who began to teach that there was no resurrection. Paul then outlines six consequences of a resurrectionless gospel. We will consider the first three this week.

First, Paul says in verse 13, if there is no resurrection, “then is Christ not risen.” If Christ is not risen, then He is still dead. If Christ is dead, then He has no ongoing ministry. What are some of the things Christ is doing right now, that He could not do if He were dead?

The book of Hebrews pictures Christ as our Great High Priest. As our High Priest, He continues to minister on our behalf. In **Hebrews 2:18**, Christ is our succourer. That is, He comes to the aid of those in need of help. In **Hebrews 6:18-20**, Christ is our refuge, our anchor, and our forerunner. He is our hope, both sure and steadfast. In **Hebrews 7:22**, Christ is our surety. He is the down payment on the promise that we will one day be with Him in glory. In **Hebrews 7:25**, Christ is our intercessor. As our High Priest, He is praying for us. If Christ is not risen, then He has no continuing ministry and none of these truths are real.

Not only is Christ our Great High Priest, but His is also our Sovereign King. Psalm 103:19 “The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.” In **Psalm 24:7-10**, five times the Lord is called the King of Glory. What title is given to the Lord in **I Timothy 6:14-15**? Read also **Revelation 17:14** and **Revelation 19:16**.

Second, Paul goes on to say in I Corinthians 15:14, that if Christ is not risen, “then is our preaching vain.” The word vain means empty or worthless. The gospel is the foundation of our preaching. If there is no gospel, then our preaching is nothing more than idle talk. In **I Timothy 4:2-4**, Paul tells Timothy to “Preach the word... for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine... and they shall turn... from the truth... unto fables.” A Christless message is a powerless message. Read **I Corinthians 1:17-21**. Who chose preaching as the means whereby the Word of God was to be proclaimed? How does God describe the wrong kind of preaching in verses 17, 19, 20, and 21? Consider also, **I Corinthians 2:4**. The power of preaching is not found in the wisdom of the words, but in the manifestation of the Spirit.

Third, Paul finishes verse 14 by saying, if our preaching is vain, “your faith is also vain.” This conclusion is repeated in verse 17. If Christ is not risen, then your faith is misplaced and thus empty and worthless. How does **Hebrews 11:1** describe faith? I have never seen the resurrected Christ, but I believe He has risen from the dead and therefore I have hope. If you had no faith in Christ, how would your life be different today? How should the resurrection of Christ affect your faith for today and the future? May the Lord give us faith that is steadfast and unmoveable.