

Study Guide: If Jesus Didn't Rise. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 12-26, 50-58

1. From the tone of his opening remarks in 1Cor. 15, you get the sense that Paul was growing frustrated with the Corinthians' failure to believe and grasp the implications of these most basic, foundational truths of Christianity. **What makes these truths so basic to our faith?**
 - That Christ died for our sins
 - And that Christ was raised back to life
 - Both as proven true by Biblical prophecy and over 500 witnesses.

(read and explore in depth Paul's arguments on the logic, means, and timing of the resurrection as described in the rest of chapter 15)
2. The pastor remarked that the Greeks (and Hebrews) of Paul's day were far more sophisticated than we give them credit. Like most "normal people," they had a very hard time believing that the dead will rise back to life.
 - **What do you think about your own return to life one day?**
 - **What do you think needs to happen before people will believe that like Jesus they too, one day, will rise from the dead?**

(you might also want to check out these verses on Hebrews and Greeks inability to accept the resurrection of the dead: Acts 4:1-3, Acts 17:18-32, Acts 23:6-9).
3. **There are three very important ASSURANCES** the we believers can have, from knowing that Christ did indeed rise from the dead. You may want to discuss each one of them and look up the verses related to each point.
 - a. That Jesus was indeed both God and the long awaited Messiah (Christ): Luke 4:16-20, John 8:56-58, John 10:30-33, Jon 14:8-11.
 - b. That we can know our sins have been forgiven: Matthew 20:28, Romans 5:8-10
 - c. That we too will, one day, rise to new life, Just as Jesus promised us: John 14:1-7, 1 Corinthians 15:52-54, 1 Peter 1:3
4. Finally, know all this to be true, **how now should you be living?**

(Spend time talking about Paul's closing remarks in 1 Corinthians 15:54-58. You may also want to look at 1 John 3:1-4)

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:54-58