

# **Life Group Guide 1 Cor 15:12–34 “If There is No Resurrection” For the Sermon Preached on Mar 5 and For Use in Life Groups through Mar 12**

## **Icebreaker Questions**

What is your favorite fruit? Is it a fruit you can get all year or do you have to wait for a particular time or when you are in a particular place to get it?

## **Read the Biblical Text: 1 Cor 15:12–34**

### **Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline**

- I. Without the Resurrection Our Message is Meaningless (vv. 12-19)**
  - a. Christians have no message without the resurrection (v. 12)
  - b. Christ’s resurrection provides a message of hope (vv. 13-19)
    - i. If there is no resurrection, Christ has not been raised from the dead (vv. 13, 16)
    - ii. If there is no resurrection, our preaching is pointless (v. 14)
    - iii. If there is no resurrection, our faith is empty (vv. 14, 17)
    - iv. If there is no resurrection, we are false witnesses (v. 15)
    - v. If there is no resurrection, we are still in our sins (v. 17)
    - vi. If there is no resurrection, those who have “fallen asleep in Christ have perished” (v. 18)
    - vii. If there is no resurrection, we are to be pitied more than all (v. 19)
- II. Without the Resurrection Our Mission is Impossible (vv. 20-28)**
  - a. Christ’s resurrection guarantees victory for those who accept Him.
    - i. The impact of Christ’s resurrection on His followers (vv. 20-22)
    - ii. The eternal promise of Christ’s resurrection (vv. 23-28)
  - b. Christ’s resurrection guarantees authority for those who accept Him (Matt. 28:19-20)
- III. Without the Resurrection Our Ministry is Pointless (vv. 29-34)**
  - a. Christ’s resurrection gives assurance of salvation (vv. 29-32a)
    - i. Misdirected attempts will not produce eternal life (v. 29)
    - ii. Misdirected works will not produce eternal life (vv. 30-32)
  - b. Christ’s resurrection gives a purpose for Christian service (vv. 30-32).
  - c. Christ’s resurrection gives the reason for a Christian lifestyle of separation (vv. 33-34)

### **Observations of the Biblical Text**

1. What false teaching is being spread in the churches in Corinth according to v. 12?

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2. According to v. 13, why is it so heretical to argue that there is no resurrection of the dead?

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3. In vs. 14-17 what does Paul say is also true if, in fact, Christ is not raised from the dead?

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4. If Christ is not raised, then what has happened to those who have died according to vs. 18-19?

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5. What does Paul call Christ in v. 20?

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6. According to vs. 21-22, what did Adam bring to the world? What did Christ bring?

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7. How does Paul describe “the end” in vs. 23-28?

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8. According to vs. 30-34, how has his belief in the resurrection of the dead changed the way Paul lives?

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### **Interpretation of the Biblical Text**

1. Paul summarizes vs. 12-18 by suggesting that if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christians are the most pitiable people of all (v. 19). How does he justify this claim in these verses? What do you think about what Paul says?

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2. According to vs. 20-24, what does Paul mean by calling Jesus the “first fruits of those who have fallen asleep”? What does that mean for us as followers of Jesus?

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3. In Observation question #7 we listed how Paul describes “the end” of the world in vs. 23-28. What do each of those elements tell us about Jesus and the gospel?

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4. Paul speaks harshly to the Corinthians again as he deals with this heresy and talks about his own life in vs. 29-34? What does Paul say about the Corinthians? What does he say about himself? What does this mean for us?

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### **Application of the Biblical Text**

1. This week memorize 1 Corinthians 15:20: “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead. The first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

2. Keep up with our annual Bible reading plan this week. If you have gotten behind, pick up where we are right now. You can always go back and read what you’ve missed as you have time.

3. Given the world we live in today, how does the promise of eternal life with God and your own resurrection relate to your life? What has this promise emboldened you to do?

4. If someone who just lost a Christian loved one came to you looking for encouragement, how might you use 1 Corinthians 15 to encourage them?

5. If a non-Christian asked you about why the resurrection of Jesus is so important to the Christian faith, what would you say? How might you use 1 Corinthians 15 to explain the gospel to them?