

## If There Is No Resurrection

---

by Wayne Goff

**“Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?” 1 Corinthians 15:12**

Perhaps we take for granted that *everyone* believes in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In fact, not everybody does. Surprisingly, there were some Christians in the church at Corinth [A.D. 56] who were arguing that there was *no resurrection from the dead!* **Seriously?** The apostle Paul proceeded to explain in his inspired letter that the resurrection of every human being is **inseparably connected** to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. “*But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen*” (v. 13).

Hopefully these Christians who had been converted by the Gospel message were shocked by such a statement! After all, Paul declared that the message which he preached to them was “*that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*” (vv. 3-4). Yes, that’s right! Paul preached to them the **death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ!** They believed and obeyed it. That’s what made them Christians.

So where did these new Christians get the idea that *nobody else* would ever rise from the dead? There are at least three possibilities: (1) Jewish Sadducees (Acts 4:1-2) who denied resurrection doctrine; (2) Greek philosophers (Acts 17:32) who mocked the resurrection idea; or (3) Early Gnostic teachers in the church who professed that the body was totally corrupt and would not be preserved in a resurrection (1 John 4:1-3). Of the three possibilities, the most likely one is that these Corinthian Christians continued to be influenced by the Greek philosophy common in Corinth and the Roman society of that day. However, the apostle Paul steadfastly preached the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and of every human being!

Paul also **inseparably connected** the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the Final Judgment: “*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.*” Acts 17:30-31 **Dear reader, are you prepared for the Judgment Day?**

251401