

IF THE DEAD ARE NOT RAISED...

(No. 1058 – 4/20/14 - NLC)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Play Kari Jobe *Forever* video
- B. Lyrics to *Forever*: “The ground began to shake / The stone was rolled away / His perfect love could not be overcome / Now death where is your sting? / Our resurrected King / Has rendered you defeated.” – Happy Resurrection Sunday!
- C. In 1 Cor. 15, Paul shows the importance of the resurrection by considering hypothetically what life would be like if the dead are not raised...

II. WHAT IF?...

- A. **1 Cor. 15:12-19:** ¹²*But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?* ¹³*If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.* ¹⁴***And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*** ¹⁵***More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised.*** ¹⁶*For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.* ¹⁷*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.* ¹⁸*Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.* ¹⁹***If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.***
- B. **1 Cor. 15:30 -32:** ³⁰***And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour?*** ³¹*I die every day—I mean that, brothers—just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord.* ³²***If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”***
- C. **Seven Results If There Is No Resurrection**
 - 1. Our preaching (ministry) is useless, vain (v.14)
 - 2. Your faith is useless, vain or futile (vv.14, 17)

3. We are false witnesses (v.15)
 - a) “Witnesses of His resurrection” (Acts 1:8; 2:32; 3:13-15; 5:30-32; 10:39-41; 13:28-31)
 - b) “Misrepresenting God” – AMP
4. You are still in your sins (v.17)
5. All believers who have already died are lost (v.18)
6. Our only hope then is for this life: eat & drink, for tomorrow we die (vv.19, 32)
7. We Christians are to be pitied more than all men [“most miserable – KJV] (v.19)

D. Summary: If we have no hope of resurrection, our sufferings and sacrifices are in vain – we should get all the enjoyment and happiness out of this life because that’s all there is!

III. BUT CHRIST HAS INDEED BEEN RAISED

- A. **1 Cor. 15:20-22:** ²⁰***BUT CHRIST HAS INDEED BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD***, *the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* ²¹*For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a Man.* ²²*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*
- B. **1 Cor. 15:3-8:** ³*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,* ⁴*that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,* ⁵*and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.* ⁶*After that, **He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time**, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.* ⁷*Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles,* ⁸*and last of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*
- C. **1 Cor. 15:51-58:** ⁵¹*Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—* ⁵²*in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.* ⁵³*For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.* ⁵⁴*When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: **“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*** ⁵⁵***“Where, O***

*death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.⁵⁷But thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**⁵⁸Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is **not in vain.***

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Christ has INDEED been raised!
- B. He was DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD WITH POWER by the resurrection from the dead (Rom. 1:4)
- C. He showed Himself with MANY INFALLIBLE PROOFS (Acts 1:3)
- D. The Lamb has overcome, and because He overcame we are more than conquerors now!
- E. Celebrate His victory!
- F. Play Kari Jobe *Forever* video again