

WHAT IF THERE HAD BEEN NO EASTER? 1 COR. 15:12-20

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. **1 Corinthians 15:14 (ESV)**

I. PREACHING WOULD BE PROFITLESS

¹³ If that is true, it means that Christ was not raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe. **1 Corinthians 15:13-14 (TEV)**

➤ *There is no gospel to preach without the resurrection.*

II. FAITH WOULD BE FOOLISH

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. **1 Corinthians 15:14 (NLT)**

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, **Romans 1:1-4 (ESV)**

III. DISCIPLES WOULD BE DECEIVERS

¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **1 Corinthians 15:15-16 (ESV)**

¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.
1 Corinthians 15:11 (ESV)

IV. SIN WOULD BE SOVEREIGN

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins. ¹⁸ It would also mean that the believers in Christ who have died are lost.
1 Corinthians 15:17-18 (TEV)

1. The resurrection shows that God has accepted Calvary's sacrifice as an atonement for sin. Had anything been lacking in that sacrifice or in the character of Jesus' like He would still be in the tomb - just another religious teacher.

2. Without the resurrection your hope of forgiveness would not be worth half a hallelujah.

²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Romans 4:23-25 (ESV)

V. DEATH WOULD HAVE DOMINION

¹⁸ It would also mean that the believers in Christ who have died are lost.
1 Corinthians 15:18 (TEV)

⁵⁴ So when this takes place, and the mortal has been changed into the immortal, then the scripture will come true: "Death is destroyed; victory is complete!" ⁵⁵ "Where, Death, is your victory? Where, Death, is your power to hurt?" ⁵⁶ Death gets its power to hurt from sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. **1 Corinthians 15:54-56 (TEV)**

VI. THE FUTURE WOULD BE FEARFUL

¹⁹ If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world. **1 Corinthians 15:19 (TEV)**

¹⁸ For the message about Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God's power. **1 Corinthians 1:18 (TEV)**

³² If I have, as it were, fought "wild beasts" here in Ephesus simply from human motives, what have I gained? But if the dead are not raised to life, then, as the saying goes, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we will die." **1 Corinthians 15:32 (TEV)**

CONCLUSION

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 (ESV)

³³ They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others ³⁴ and saying, "The Lord is risen indeed! He has appeared to Simon!" **Luke 24:33-34 (TEV)**