

I. WHAT IF CHRIST IS NOT RAISED? (1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19)

- A. Then Christian ministry is a vain activity **(1 Corinthians 15:12-15)**
1. Christian preaching and teaching is pointless **(1 Corinthians 15:12-14; 15:32)**
 2. Christian faith and deeds is pointless **(1 Corinthians 15:14)**
 3. Christian ministry is really bearing false witness **(1 Corinthians 15:15; Exodus 20:16; Matthew 15:19)**
- B. Then Christianity is a futile way of life **(1 Corinthians 15:16-19)**
1. We are actually still in our sins **(1 Corinthians 15:16-17; Romans 6:23)**
 2. "Christians" have perished and so will we **(1 Corinthians 15:18; John 3:16)**
 3. We live a pitiable life with no lasting hope **(1 Corinthians 15:19; 1 Corinthians 4:9-13)**

II. BUT IF CHRIST IS RAISED, THEN A CASCADE OF BLESSINGS COME TO US WHO BELIEVE (ROMANS 4:22-25)

- A. Since Christ was raised, we are made right with God **(Romans 4:22-25)**
1. There will be a Judgment Day **(Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10)**
 2. How will we be made right with God? By feats, fiat, or faith?
 3. Those who believe will be acquitted **(Romans 4:24-25; 4:5; 10:9)**
- B. Since we have been made right with God by faith, we have. . . **(Romans 5:1-2)**
1. Peace with God **(Romans 4:1; 10-11)**
 2. Access into His grace to stand assured **(Romans 4:2; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 1:21-23)**
 3. The hope of God's glory in which we rejoice **(Romans 4:2; Colossians 1:27-28)**
 4. Confidence that our faith and ministry matters **(1 Corinthians 15:58)**

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. In what ways would living a Christian life be futile if Jesus was not raised from the dead? Why would the Christian life be a pity without the resurrection?
2. What does it mean to be justified? How is a person justified?
3. What are some ways people seek to be justified by God? Why is faith alone so important to correct understanding of justification?
4. What are the cascading blessings that come to those who have been justified by faith? In what ways can these blessings be a source of encouragement for us?

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD I HEARD *(CIRCLE THE ONES MENTIONED)*

Good	Wise	Wrathful	Merciful
Just	Jealous	Faithful	Perfect
Holy	Gracious	Patient	Love
Other:			

KEY WORDS *(WRITE WHAT THESE WORDS MEAN)*

Vain —

Futile —

Justification —

Fiat —

NOTES OR DRAWINGS ABOUT WHAT I HEARD