



## SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

### 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 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 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. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

### ROMANS 4:22-25

That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” 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.

1. What aspects of Christian ministry does Paul say would be pointless if Jesus did not rise from the dead? Why do you think they would be pointless?

#### KIDS

2. 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?

#### KIDS+STUDENTS

3. What does it mean to be justified? How is a person justified?

#### STUDENTS

4. What are some ways people seek to be justified by God? Why is faith alone so important to correct understanding of justification?

#### KIDS+STUDENTS

5. 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?