

Message Notes

The Resurrection - 2 (No Resurrection?)

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - "Bumper Sticker Theology"

What we believe is actually pretty hard stuff!

If you want to disprove Christianity,
what can you go after:

GOD
BIBLE
RESURRECTION OF JESUS

This week: The Dire Consequences of Denying the Resurrection of the Dead (1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

1. Open Hand Issues and Closed Hand Issues
1 Corinthians 15:12

2. The Downward Logical Spiral
1 Corinthians 15:13-18

- a. No Resurrection
- b. Christ is not raised
- c. Preaching (Message) is useless
- d. Your faith is useless
- e. Paul and others are false witness
- f. Faith is futile
- g. You are still in your sins
- h. Those who have died are lost

3. The Ultimate Conclusion
1 Corinthians 15:19

"At least I lived a good life"

Pascal's Wager

Application - "What if it IS true?"

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

¹²But 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? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵More 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. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After 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. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

“Bumper Sticker Theology” video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVQhGjJ-sH8>



“A lot of people don’t like bumper stickers. I don’t mind bumper stickers. To me a bumper sticker is a shortcut. It’s like a little sign that says ‘Hey, let’s never hang out.’”

We believe some pretty
hard stuff!

If you were out to disprove
Christianity, go after:

If you were out to disprove
Christianity, go after:

1.GOD

If you were out to disprove
Christianity, go after:

1.GOD

2.BIBLE

If you were out to disprove
Christianity, go after:

1.GOD

2.BIBLE

3.RESURRECTION OF
JESUS



~ Pastor and Theologian Dick Tripp of his website:
<http://www.christianity.co.nz/>

“The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is central to the message of the New Testament - it doesn't make sense without it. After a thorough survey of its teaching, Biblical scholar, G. E. Ladd, concludes:

The entire New Testament was written from the perspective of the resurrection. Indeed, the resurrection may be called the major premise of the early Christian faith.

The Gospels tell us a lot about the remarkable things that Jesus said and did during his three years of ministry. However, it is interesting to note that in the rest of the New Testament these things are hardly mentioned again. All the emphasis is on his death and resurrection which are referred to about 100 times. Much of the message of the New Testament - our present relationship with the living Jesus, his presence and transforming power in our lives, the final defeat of evil, our future hope - is related to the resurrection. In later Christian writings it is the same. The cross and resurrection are central to virtually all known forms of early Christianity. It follows, therefore, that if the resurrection never happened, we are left with the alternatives of either proclaiming a message that is based on a lie, or radically altering what the early Christians were on about.

Michael Ramsey, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, has said:

For the first disciples, the gospel without the resurrection was not merely a gospel without a final chapter; it was not a gospel at all.

Or as John S. Whale put it in Christian Doctrine:

Belief in the resurrection is not an appendage to the Christian faith: it is the Christian faith. The Gospels cannot explain the resurrection; it is the resurrection which alone explains the Gospels.

Anyone has the right to preach a religion that has something to do with Jesus if that is what they wish to do. However, if the resurrection is not somewhere at the heart of it, then it is misleading to call it Christianity.

It is not the message of the New Testament or of the major Christian creeds. Neither is it what the majority of Christians have believed down the ages."

THE RESURRECTION:



IT'S NOT JUST FOR EASTER ANYMORE!

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

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1 Corinthians 15:12-19

¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

1. Open Hand vrs. Closed Hand issues

1 Corinthians 15:12

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Now You Can Have It...

1. Open Hand vrs. Closed Hand issues

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Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

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The Questioning Christian

by D. C. Toedt

« [Reasons to Question the Reliability of Scripture](#) | [Main](#) | ["Can Prayer Heal?"](#) »

October 09, 2004

What If the Resurrection Didn't Happen?

Some have suggested that if the orthodox version of the resurrection isn't literally true, then Christianity is necessarily a fraud. I think that's an example of what John Wilkins (the [Salty Vicar](#)) aptly describes as a false dichotomy. [*Correction: false dichotomy dilemma.*]

At least according to the synoptic Gospels, the essence of Christianity is three things:

- Love God above all;
- love your neighbor as yourself -- and your neighbor is everyone who crosses your path, not just your fellow tribesman; and
- be willing to change your life to more closely match God's will.

Other doctrines such as the resurrection, the virgin birth, the atonement, etc., are at best ancillary to the Essential Three. But they did fortuitously serve as pedagogical devices, as "hooks" that got people's attention and thereby helped them internalize the Essential Three.

If you think about it in communications terms, such ancillary doctrines could have been the equivalent of a tough mailing envelope in which the message of the Essential Three was bundled. Without the envelope, the message inside might never have gotten through to us.

But we should never confuse the envelope with the message inside.

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Benjamin Franklin's creed

Faith = Openness to Truth = Trust in God

2. The Downward Logical Spiral



2. The Downward Logical Spiral

a. IF THERE IS No Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:13-18

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2. The Downward Logical Spiral

b. Christ has not been raised

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2. The Downward Logical Spiral

c. Preaching (Message) is useless

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2. The Downward Logical Spiral

d. Your faith is useless

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CAUTION

**THIS SIGN HAS
SHARP EDGES**

DO NOT TOUCH THE EDGES OF THIS SIGN



ALSO, THE BRIDGE IS OUT AHEAD



2. The Downward Logical Spiral

e. Paul and others are False Witness

1 Corinthians 15:13-18

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Perjury

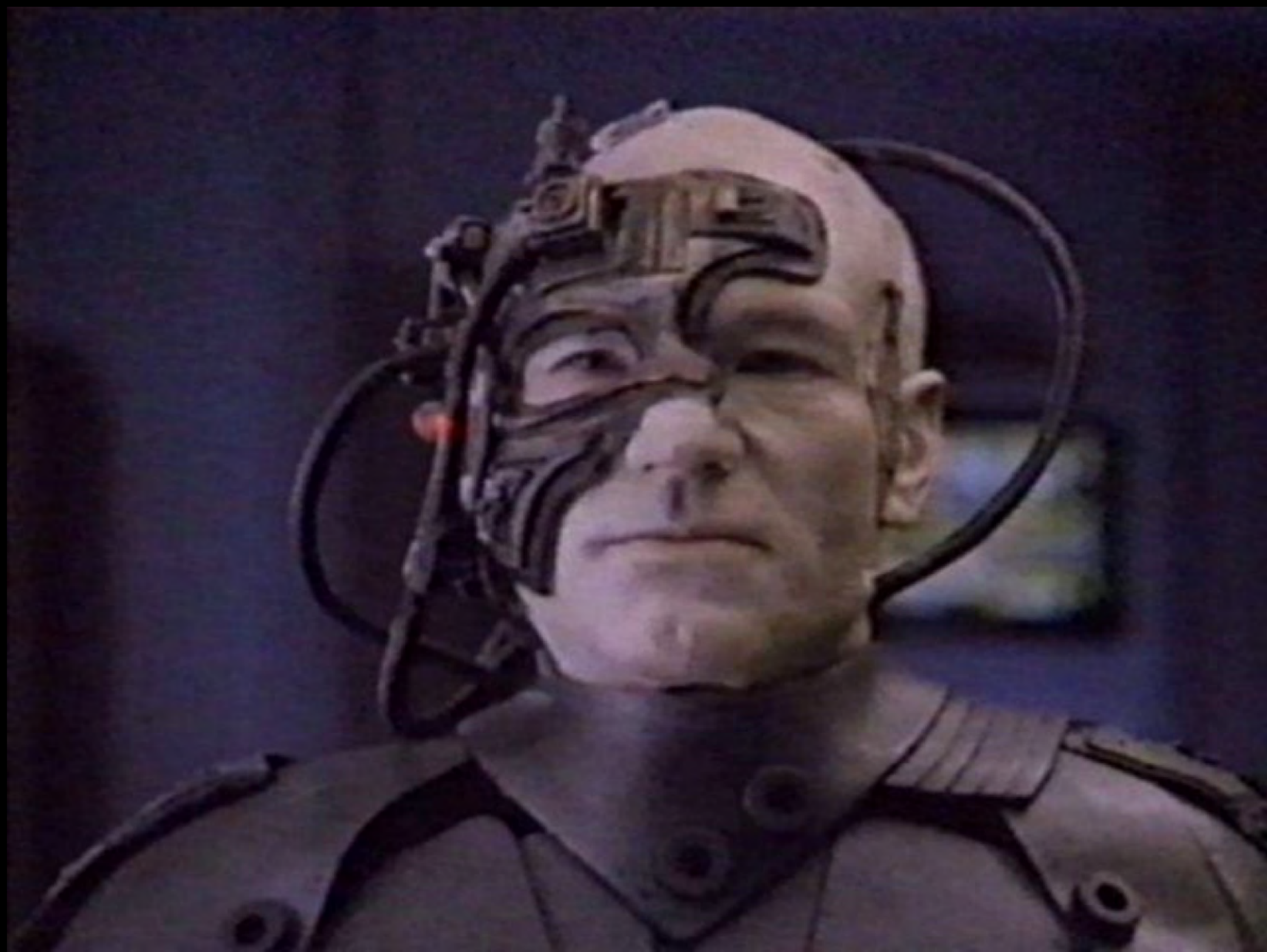


2. The Downward Logical Spiral

f. Faith is futile

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2. The Downward Logical Spiral

g. You are still in your sins

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2. The Downward Logical Spiral

h. Those who have died are lost

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IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION

THEN: Christ is not raised

Preaching (Message) is useless

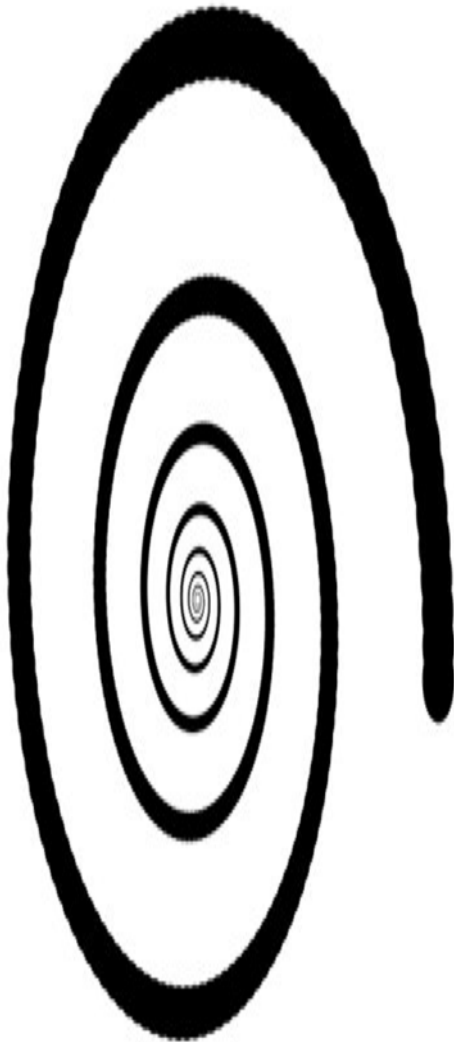
Your faith is useless

Paul and others are false witnesses

Faith is futile

You are still in your sins

Those who have died are lost



3. The Ultimate Conclusion

1 Corinthians 15:19

¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ,
we are to be pitied more than all men.

“If Christianity isn’t true, it really
doesn’t matter...

I lived a much happier life with it.”



Blaise Pascal
"Pascal's Wager"

OBJECTIVE

GOD EXISTS

GOD DOESN'T EXIST

I BELIEVE

GAIN EVERYTHING

GAIN NOTHING

LOSE NOTHING

LOSE NOTHING

I DON'T BELIEVE

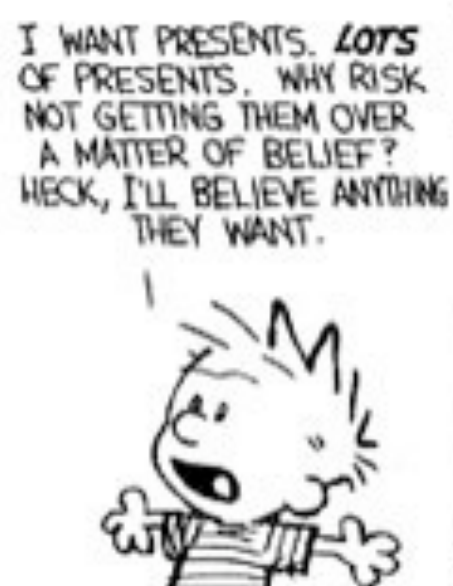
GAIN NOTHING

GAIN NOTHING

LOSE EVERYTHING

LOSE NOTHING

SUBJECTIVE



But wait...

1 Corinthians 15:20

“But Christ has indeed been
raised from the dead...”

IF THE RESURRECTION IS TRUE

THEN: Christ is raised

Preaching (Message) is useful

Your faith is effective

Paul and others are true witnesses

Faith is powerful

You are NOT still in your sins

Those who have died are with God!

