#### **Message Notes**

The Resurrection - 2 (No Resurrection?)

**Introduction** – "Bumper Sticker Theology"

What we believe is actually pretty hard stuff!

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

GOD

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?"

#### Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

#### 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

<sup>12</sup>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? 13If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>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. 16For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then 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

<sup>1</sup>Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup>By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For 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. <sup>6</sup>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. 7Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and 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."

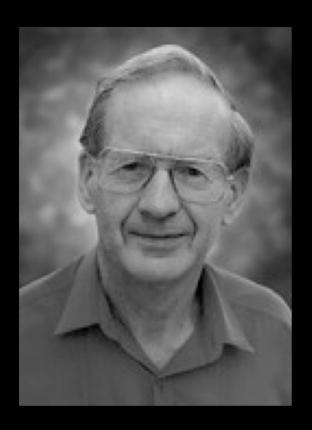
# We believe some pretty hard stuff!

1.GOD

1.GOD

2.BIBLE

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. Open Hand vrs. Closed Hand issues

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#### **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

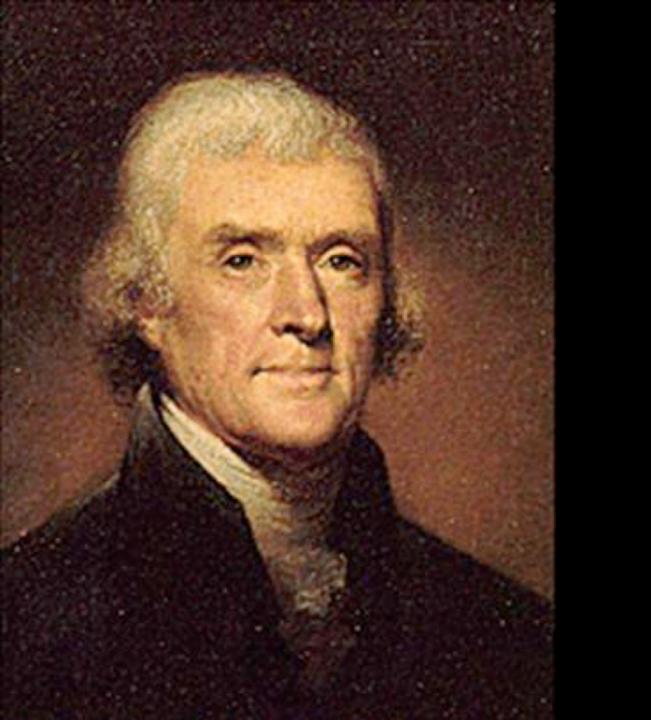
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27 Et post hac exist, & confpexit publicanum nomine, 1.eviri, fedentem ad telonium, & ait illi : Sequere me.

28 Et relinquens omnia, forgens lequetus eil enm.

20 Et fecit convivium magnum Levis et in domo fua : &

multi publicani & peccatores fimul discumbebant Jefu, & difcipulis ejus : erant enim multi, & fequebantur cum.

16 Et Scribse & Pharifiei videntes cum edentem cum publicanis & peccatoribus, dicebant discipulis ejus : Quid, quod cum publicanis & peccatoribus manducat & bibit?

17 Et audiens Jefus, ait illis : Non usum habent valentes mei voles da illes antiras damisto veni vocare juftos, fed peccatores ad pornitontiam.

36 Dicebat autem & fimiliwies aires. Oriente imchapen tudinem ad illos: Quia nemo luarie rand incaba in ini adjectionem vestimenti novi advier madaufr il di mipt, & rd jicit ad vellimentum vetus: fi sand syifu, k. The Wakais is vero non, & novum frindit, & ergepanti intelegan vi ani vi veteri non convenir commifiura a novo.

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38 Sed vinum novum in utres name Barin' & aufories novos injiciendum, & utraque confervantur.

> 53 Et factum eft, quum confummaffet Jefus parabolas iftas, transiti inde.

> 54 Et veniens in patriam fuam docebat eos in fynagoga enrum, ita ut obstupcheri ipsos, & dicere: Unde huie fapientia hæc, & efficacitates?

> 35 Nonne hic eft fabri filius? Nonne mater ejus dicitur Maria, & fratres ejus Jacobus, & Joses, & Simon, & Judas?

go Et fororescius, nonne omnes apud nos funt? unde ergo na prager pomme Levi, assis an bureau des impots, et il loi dit Sais-moi.

28. Et lui, quittant tout , se

leva et le suivil.

29. Et Levi lui fit un grand fesin dans sa maison , out se trouval followed him.

plusienrs

peagers et gens de manvaise vie se mirent mussi à table avec Jesus et ses Disciples ; caril y en avoit beaucoup qui l'avoient saivi.

siens, voyant qu'il mangeoit avec des péagers et des gens de mouvaise vie , disoient à ses Discige-t-il et boit-il avec les peagers. et les gens de mauvaise vie ?

17. Et Jesus ayant oui cela, leur dit : Ce ne sont pas ceux qui sont en santé qui ont besoin de Medecin , mais ce sont ceux qui se portent mal ! Je suis venu appeler! mais les pécheurs.

d'un habit neuf à un vieux ha- repentance,

nouveau dans devieux vaisseaux; antrement le vin nouveau romproit ef les vaisseaux seroient perdus.

58. Mais le vin nouveau doit être mis dans des vaisseaux neufs, et ainsi tous les deux se conserveet.

55. Et il arriva que quand Jesus retira de ce lieu-1d.

51. Et étant venu en sa patrie, il les enseignon dans leur synagogue ; de sorte qu'ils étoient étonnés , et qu'ils disoient : D'où viennent à cet homme cette sagesse et ces miracles?

55. N'est-ce pas le fils du charpentier? sa mere ne s'appelle-telle pas Marie, et ses frères, Jaques , Joses , Simon et Jude? 36. Et ses sœurs ne sout - elles pas toutes parmi nons ? D'où lui

27. Après cela il sortit, et il vit 27 And after these things, he 1 .S. went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

28 And he left all, rose up, and

29 And Levi made him a great feast in his own house and 15. many publicans and sinners sat, Mr. 2,

also together with Jesus and his 16. Et les Scribes et les Phari- disciples : for there were many, and they followed him.

16 And when the scribes and ples : Poarquoi voire Maitre man- Pharisees saw him egt with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples. How is it that he eateth and drinketir with publicans and sinners?

17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole' à la repentance, non les justes, have no need of the physician, but 36. If lear dit aussi une simili- they that are sick ! I came not to tade : Personne ne met une pièce call the righteous, but sinners to

bit; autrement ce qui est neuf de- 36 And he spake also a parable 1.5. chireroit, et la pièce du drap unto them; No man putteth a ueuf ne convient point an vieux. piece of a new garment upon an 57. Personne aussi ne met fe vin old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece e vaissenux, et se répandroit, that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spillcut acheve ces similitudes, il se ed, and the bottles shall perish.

38 But new wine must be put into new hottles, and hoth-are preserved.

53 And it came to pass, that Me. 13. when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence bath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath

#### 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 dilemna.]

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 messge 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

## 2. The Downward Logical Spiral b. Christ has not been raised

#### **1 Corinthians 15:13-18**

## 2. The Downward Logical Spiral c. Preaching (Message) is useless

#### **1 Corinthians 15:13-18**

## 2. The Downward Logical Spiral d. Your faith is useless

#### **1 Corinthians 15:13-18**



# 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

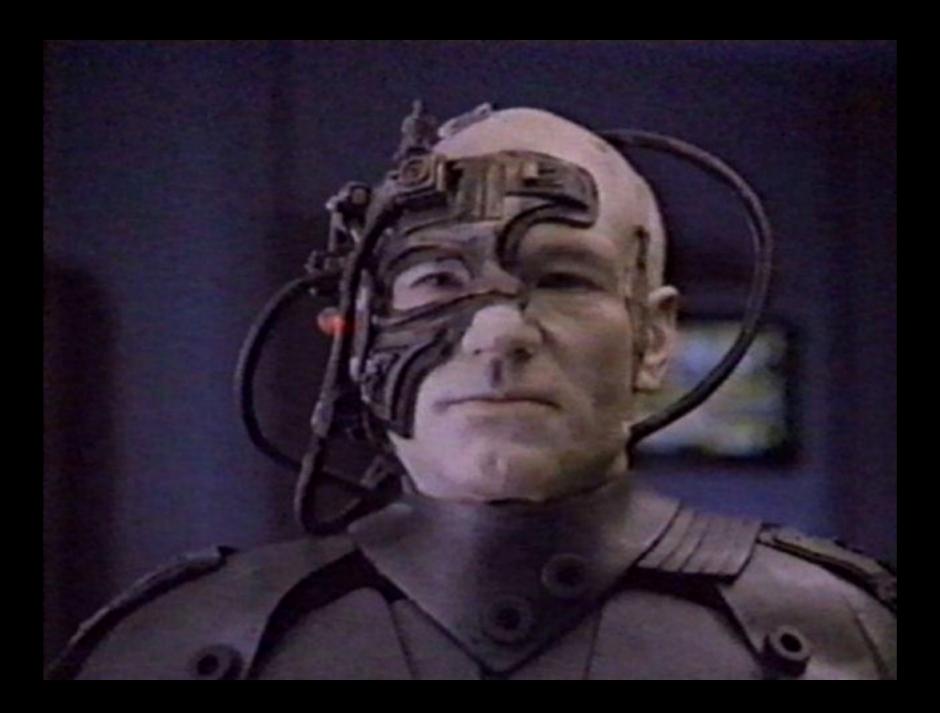
#### **1 Corinthians 15:13-18**

### Perjury



## 2. The Downward Logical Spiral f. Faith is futile

#### **1 Corinthians 15:13-18**



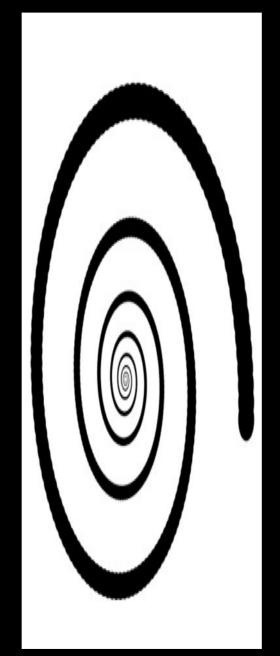
## 2. The Downward Logical Spiral g. You are still in your sins

#### **1 Corinthians 15:13-18**

## 2. The Downward Logical Spiral h. Those who have died are lost

#### 1 Corinthians 15:13-18

#### 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.

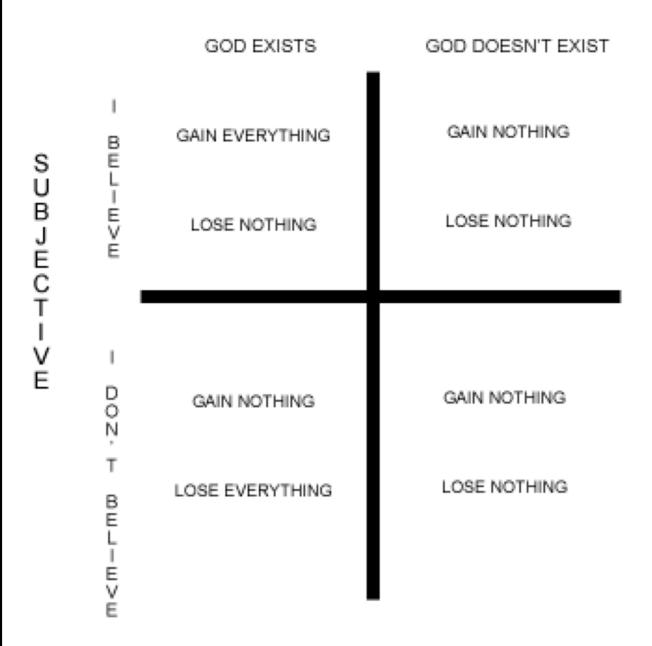
# "If Christianity isn't true, it really doesn't matter...

I lived a much happier life with it."

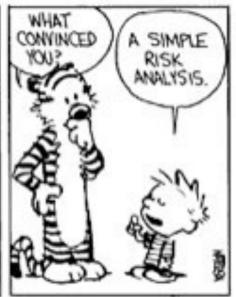


Blaise Pascal "Pascal's Wager"

#### OBJECTIVE







I WANT PRESENTS. LOTS
OF PRESENTS, WHY RISK
NOT GETTING THEM OVER
A MATTER OF BELIEF?
HECK, I'LL BELIEVE ANTHMO
THEY WANT.

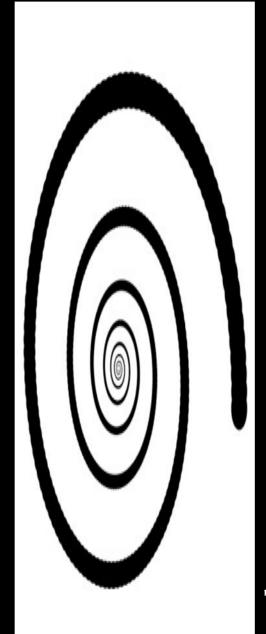




#### But wait...

# 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 truewitnesses

Faith is powerful

You are NOT still in your sins

Those who have died are with God!