

Message Notes

The Resurrection - 3 (Benefits for us)

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - *"The Death of the American Dream"*

"What are we living for?"

"What do we really, really want?"

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

GOD
BIBLE

RESURRECTION OF JESUS

This week: The Benefits for us of Christ being raised from the dead
(1 Corinthians 15:20-)

1. Christ has indeed been raised!!
1 Corinthians 15:20a

Five Possibilities

Five Theories

2. The benefits of Christ's Resurrection
1 Corinthians 15:20b-28

- a. This is just the first fruits!
- b. Christ undoes what Adam did
- c. It gives a glimpse of heaven
- d. It gives a glimpse of the power of Jesus
- e. It shows off the glory of God

3. Three Refutations
1 Corinthians 15:29-32

Application - *"We are far too easily pleased..."*

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.

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 15:20-34

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For he "has put everything under his feet."

Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

²⁹Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?

³⁰And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹I die every day—I mean that, brothers—just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³²If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised,

"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

³³Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." ³⁴Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

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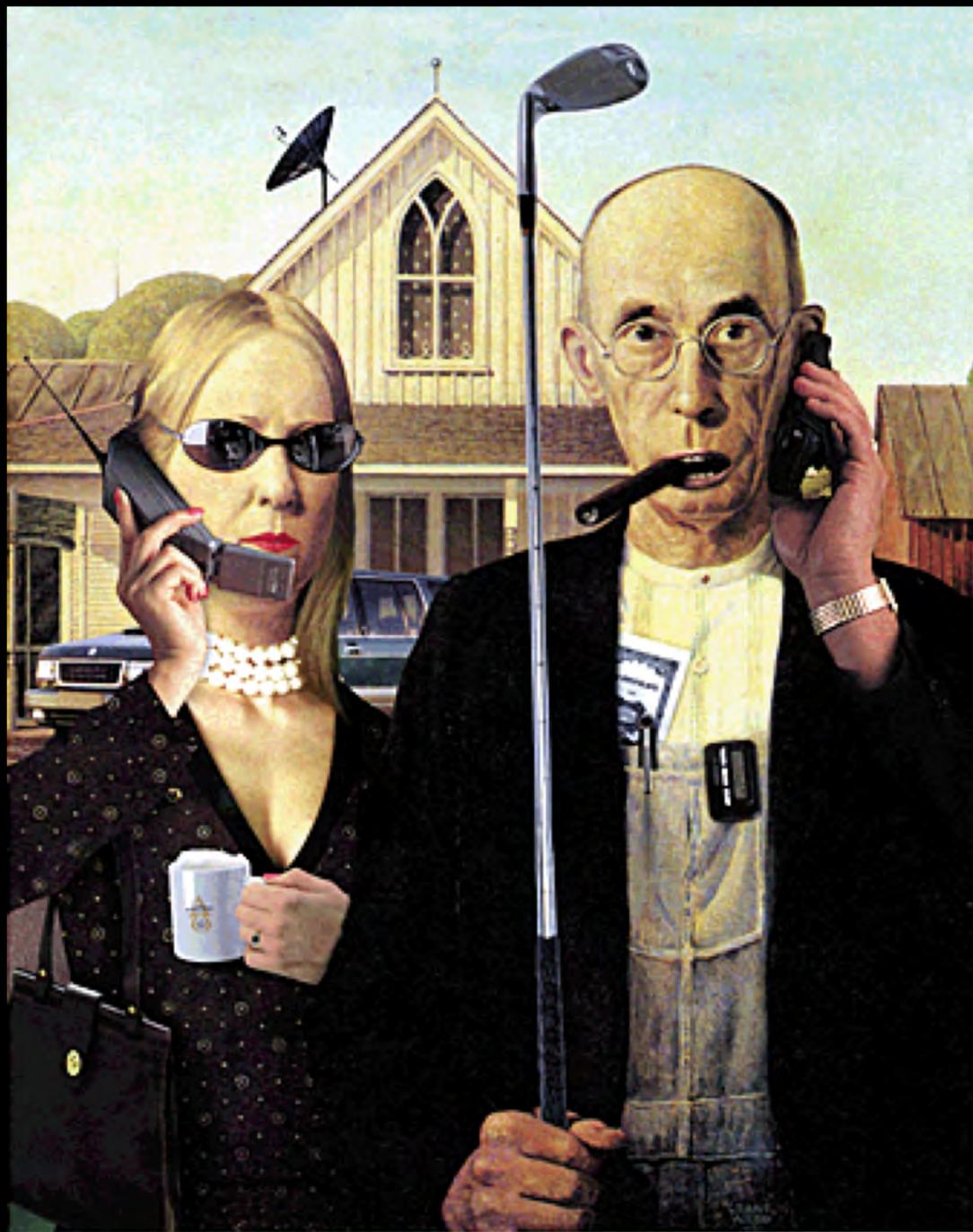
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PAULA JONES:
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

TIME

You called us
slackers. You
 dismissed us
 as
Generation X.
 Well, move
 over. we're
 not what you
thought.



The American Dream?

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42% of working adults feel “used up” by the end of the day

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Per capita consumption in the last twenty years has risen forty-five percent, while the quality of life as measured by the Index of Social Health has decreased by fifty-one percent

Only 21% of young people today now think they will achieve “the good life,” compared with forty-one percent twenty years ago.



It's called the American Dream cause you
have to be asleep to believe it . . ."

What were we made for?

What do we really, really want?

THE RESURRECTION:



IT'S NOT JUST FOR EASTER ANYMORE!

1 Corinthians 15:20-34

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For he “has put everything under his feet.” [Psalm 8:6]

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Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:20-34

²⁹Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? ³⁰And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹I die every day – I mean that, brothers – just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³²If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised,

“Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die.” [Isaiah 22:13]

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If you were out to disprove
Christianity, go after:

1.GOD

2.BIBLE

3.RESURRECTION OF
JESUS

1 Corinthians 15:12-13, 17-19

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...

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.

IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION

THEN: Christ is not raised

Preaching (Message) is useless

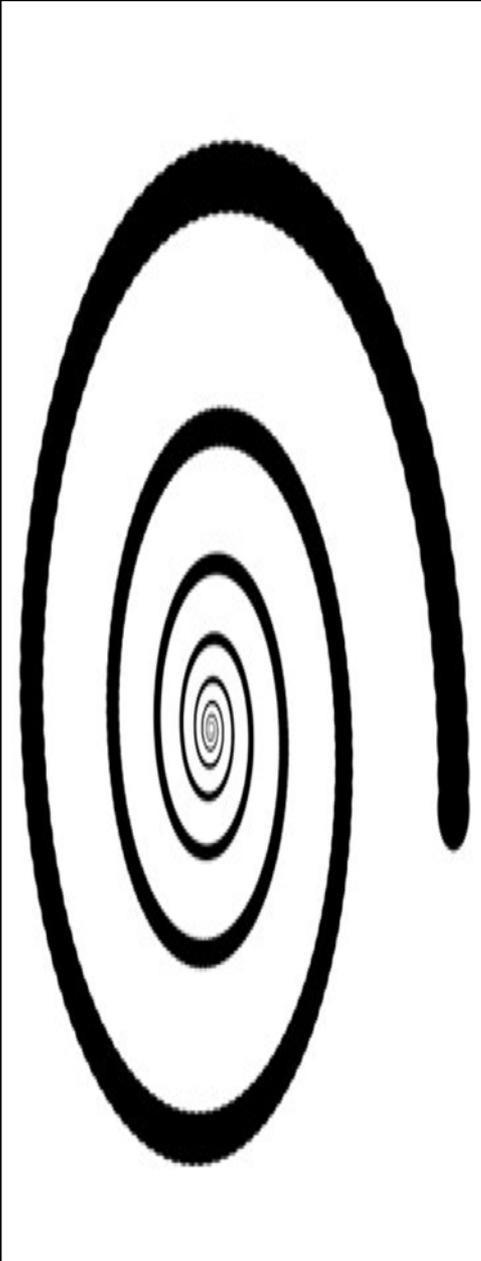
Your faith is useless

Paul and others are false witnesses

Faith is futile

You are still in your sins

Those who have died are lost



**1. Christ has indeed been raised
from the dead!!!**

1. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!!!

1 Corinthians 15:20a

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Peter Kreeft & Ronald K. Tacelli



Handbook of Christian Apologetics

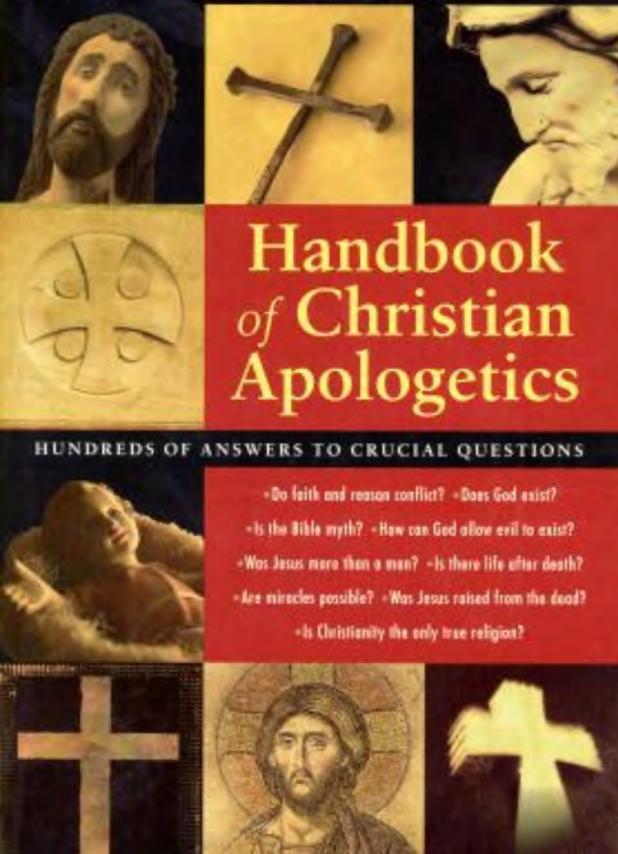
HUNDREDS OF ANSWERS TO CRUCIAL QUESTIONS



- Do faith and reason conflict? • Does God exist?
- Is the Bible myth? • How can God allow evil to exist?
- Was Jesus more than a man? • Is there life after death?
- Are miracles possible? • Was Jesus raised from the dead?
- Is Christianity the only true religion?

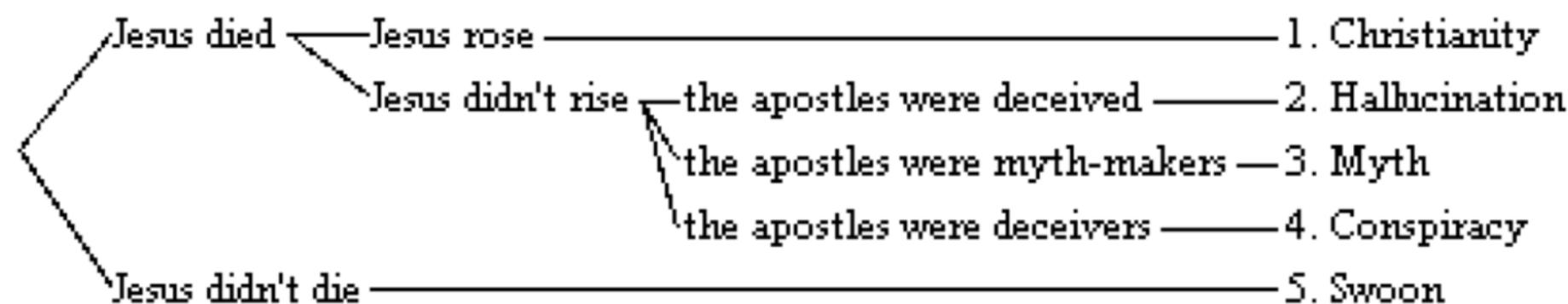


Peter Kreeft & Ronald K. Tacelli



We believe Christ's resurrection can be proved with at least as much certainty as any universally believed and well-documented event in ancient history. To prove this, we do not need to presuppose anything controversial (e.g., that miracles happen). But the skeptic must also not presuppose anything (e.g., that they do not). We do not need to presuppose that the New Testament is infallible, or divinely inspired or even true. We do not need to presuppose that there really was an empty tomb or postresurrection appearances, as recorded. We need to presuppose only two things, both of which are hard data, empirical data, which no one denies: the existence of the New Testament texts as we have them, and the existence (but not necessarily the truth) of the Christian religion as we find it today.

~ Peter. Kreeft and Ronald K. Tacelli, *Handbook of Christian Apologetics : Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions*, 182 (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1994).



Five Options



Five Options

Jesus Died



Five Options

Jesus Died

Jesus Rose ---

(1) Biblical
Christianity!



Five Options

Jesus Died

Jesus didn't rise



Five Options

Jesus Died

Jesus didn't rise

(2) the apostles
were
deceived





Theory #1

*The Disciples went to
the wrong tomb
(Oops Theory)*

Theory #2

The Hallucination Theory



Five Options

Jesus Died

Jesus didn't rise

(3) the apostles
were myth
makers



Theory #3

The Disciples were really good myth-makers.



Five Options

Jesus Died

Jesus didn't rise

(4) the apostles
were
deceivers



Theory #4

The Disciples stole the Body (the big conspiracy theory!)

ANDY FREDERICK'S BOOK CONSPIRACIES UNCOVERED, THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE 9/11 ATTACKS, HAS WRITTEN THE ONLY ONE OF HIS BOOKS THAT ISN'T A CONSPIRACY THEORY.

CONSPIRACY THEORY

Matthew 28:11-15

¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Five Options

Jesus didn't Die

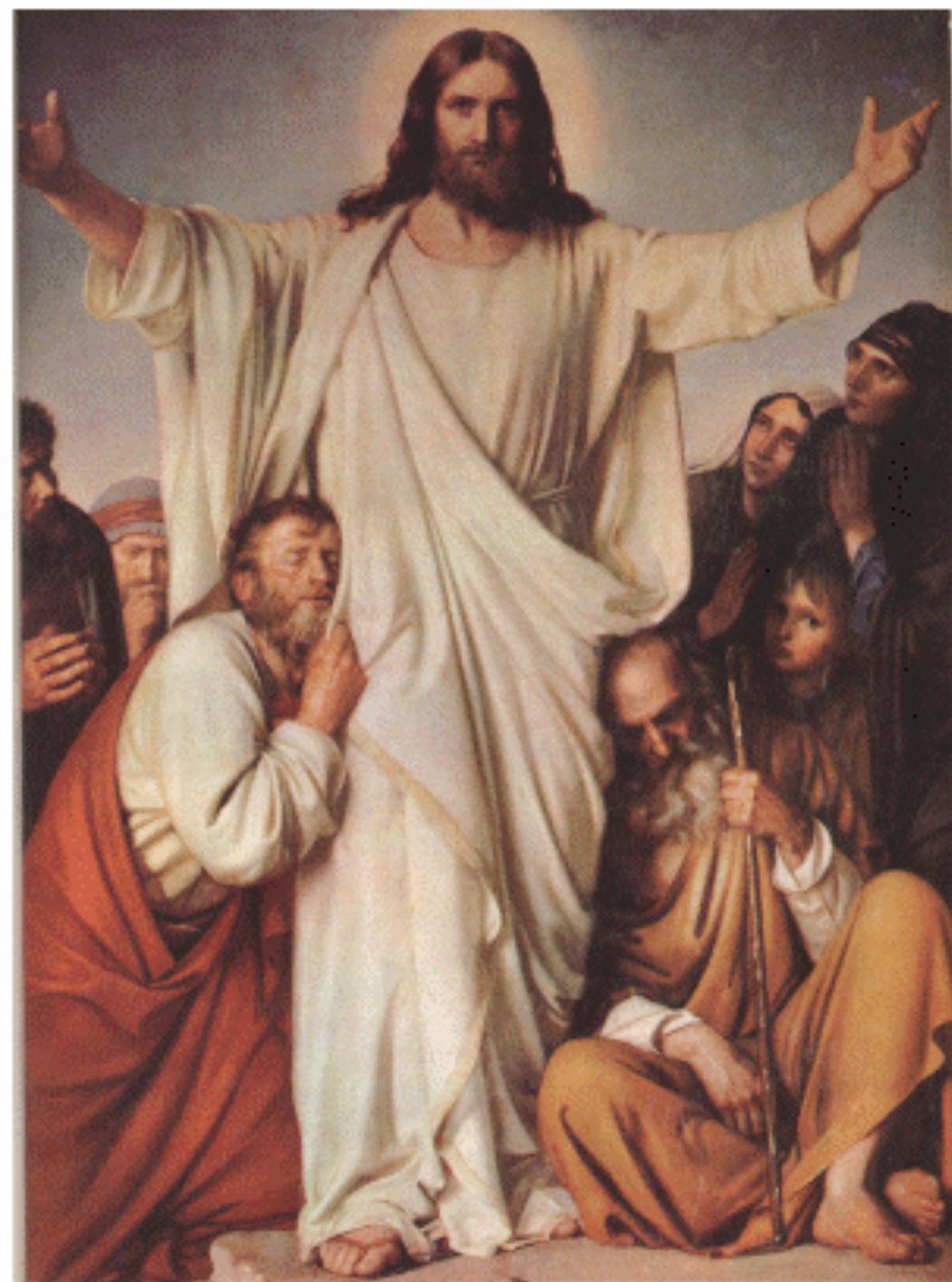
(5) He was
resuscitated
by the cool of
the tomb



Theory #5

The Swoon Theory





**The best
possible
Theory:**

*Jesus actually
rose from the
dead!*

2. The benefits of Christ's resurrection

2. **The benefits of Christ's resurrection**
 - a. *The resurrection is just the "first fruits!"*

2. The benefits of Christ's resurrection

a. The resurrection is just the "first fruits!"

1 Corinthians 15:20b

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.



The Resurrection was not regarded simply or chiefly as evidence for the immortality of the soul. It is, of course, often so regarded today: I have heard a man maintain that “the importance of the Resurrection is that it proves *survival*.” Such a view cannot at any point be reconciled with the language of the New Testament. On such a view Christ would simply have done what all men do when they die; the only novelty would have been that in his case we were allowed to see it happening. But there is not in Scripture the faintest suggestion that the Resurrection was new evidence for something that had *in fact* been always happening. The New Testament writers speak as if Christ’s achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the “first fruits,” the “pioneer of life.” He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so.

~ C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*, chap. 16

2. The benefits of Christ's resurrection

b. Christ undoes what Adam did

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1 Corinthians 15:21-22

²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.



2. The benefits of Christ's resurrection

c. The resurrection gives us a glimpse of heaven

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1 Corinthians 15:23

²³But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

2. The benefits of Christ's resurrection

*d. The resurrection gives us a glimpse of
the power of Jesus Christ*

2. The benefits of Christ's resurrection

d. The resurrection gives us a glimpse of the power of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 15:24

²⁴Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For he “has put everything under his feet.” [Psalm 8:6]

2. The benefits of Christ's resurrection

e. The resurrection shows off the glory of God

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1 Corinthians 15:27b-28

Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

3. Three refutations

1 Corinthians 15:29-32

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³¹I die every day – I mean that, brothers – just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

³²If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised,

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3. Three refutations

a. The baptism of the dead

1 Corinthians 15:29

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What? Baptism for the dead?

1.No where else in all of the Bible or in Christian history is this seen as common and theologically correct theology.

2.The “dying” were being baptized

3.This was a pagan practice, and even they believe in the resurrection

4.Paul is not happy about this, but is using it as a means of an argument - “see even those who deny the resurrection of the dead at Corinth are baptizing people in proxy for dead people”

3. Three refutations

b. Why would I (Paul) do this?

1 Corinthians 15:30-32a

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3. Three refutations

c. Philosophical nothingness is logical conclusion

1 Corinthians 15:32b

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“Let us eat and drink,
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4. Christ has been raised!! A warning...

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

³³Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” ³⁴Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God – I say this to your shame.

What were we made for?

What do we really, really want?

“Our passions are not too strong, they are too weak. We are far too easily pleased”

~ C. S. Lewis