

The Meaning of the Bodily Resurrection of Christ Jesus

If Christ Jesus **is** raised from the dead,
why do some of you say
there is no resurrection of the dead?

If there **is no resurrection** of the dead,
then not even Christ Jesus has been raised;
and **if** Christ Jesus has not been raised,
then the preaching of the gospel is in vain
and **Paul's faith and my faith is also in vain.**

If Christ Jesus has not been raised **then** we are
false witnesses to the Word of God,
because **we testify that Christ Jesus is**
raised from the dead. Therefore, we are
false witnesses, saying there are those whom Christ Jesus
did raise when, in fact, they are not. For **if** the dead are
not raised, **then not even Christ Jesus has been raised;**
and **if** Christ has not been raised, **then** Paul's faith and my
faith are worthless and we are still in our sins.
Then all those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If we have **hoped in Christ in this life only, then**
we are of all men and women **to be most pitied.**
[This is the key to this passage, exposing the Devil's lie.]

But **Christ is raised from the dead.**
He is the **first fruits** of those **who are asleep.**
For **by Adam came death,** but **by Christ Jesus**
came the resurrection of the dead. In Adam all die,
so also **in Christ all will be made alive** [at His Coming].

But **each in his own order:** Christ the first fruits,
after that **those who are Christ's** at His coming.

Then comes the end, when He **hands over the kingdom**
to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule
and **all authority and power.**

For He must reign **until He has put all His enemies**
under His feet.

The **last enemy** that will be abolished **is death.**

This is a paraphrase and commentary on Paul's great
apologetic —his "If/Then/But" argument in 1 Cor 15:12-25.
It is The Statement of the Grace Gospel that saves.

Christ Jesus' resurrection is denied
because **the Devil is a liar.** He dupes
many to deny the reality of eternal life.

The Devil's way is to try to prove God a
liar. If he can prove Christ Jesus is not
alive then **he thinks he can prove** there
is no hope in the gospel of grace and we
will all spend eternity in hell with him.

The Devil's way is also to **speak lies about**
us. The **greatest lie he can speak** about us
is claiming we falsely believe Christ Jesus is
alive and reigns in heaven and likewise that
we believe dead loved ones who are saved
are in spirit and in the presence of Jesus in
heaven. **The Devil would like to prove that**
all those who possess this faith are lost;
and that **all those have gone to the grave**
believing the gospel **will never be raised.**

Therefore, **we must ask** if the reason we
hope is to have faith only in this earthly life.
If that is the truth, then we are the most
miserable souls on the face of the earth.

But Christ Jesus IS raised from the dead!
He is the first to be resurrected. Though
we all are born into sin because of Adam
and Eve, Jesus' death pays for all sin. His
payment makes it possible to escape hell.

We must not miss the words: "those who
are Christ's." **Each must be born again** like
Nicodemus in John 3:3, 5, and 7. "Coming"
means 1 Thess 4:14-17 when Christ gathers
to heaven all those **who are His by rebirth.**

Christ Jesus will abolish all man's authority
which, **in this age, is controlled by Satan.**

"Every knee will bow and every tongue
will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."
(Philippians 2:10-11)

The grave is **only a temporary death** for
those who are in Christ Jesus. For those
who are lost, it is **only their first death.**
At the Great White Throne Judgment
those who are not in Christ will face the
second death that is eternal.