

# \_\_\_ All or Nothing \_\_\_

## *Making the Resurrection Central*

### **1 Corinthians 15:12–19 (NLT)**

12 But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? 13 For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. 14 **And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.** 15 And we **apostles** would all be **lying** about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. 16 And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then **Christ has not been raised.** 17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still **guilty** of your **sins**. 18 In that case, **all who have died** believing in Christ are **lost!**

- 19 And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be **pitied** than anyone in the world.

**Main Idea** — The resurrection is an all or nothing claim in Christianity.

**Main Question** — Is Jesus's resurrection true or is it a lie?

1. Jesus's resurrection was the first of a **harvest** .

**1 Corinthians 15:20 (NLT)** 20 But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

**1 Corinthians 15:23 (NLT)** 23 But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then **all who belong to Christ will be raised** when he comes back.

2. Jesus's resurrection power can be **experienced** in everyday details.

**Philippians 3:10–11 (NLT)** 10 I want to know Christ and **experience** the **mighty power** that raised him from the dead...11 so that one way or another I will **experience** the **resurrection** from the dead!

**PROBLEM for FOLLOWERS:** Seeing Jesus, but not **recognizing** him.

*She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. (John 20:14)*

## CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

1. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church that without the bodily **resurrection of Jesus**, our faith is useless, baseless, lifeless, pointless, hopeless and ultimately pitiful. **1 Cor 15:12–19 (NLT)**
  - After dwelling on this idea, how does it strike you?
2. There's a difference between **knowing about** Jesus and his resurrection power and **experiencing** it. In which of these ways could this power be pressed into the everyday challenges you face?
  - **Social Injustice.** In the end, God rescues you from injustice & evens the score according to His perfect scales.
  - **Fear of Loss.** You have full assurance: God ultimately prevails and pronounces judgement on evil.
  - **Search for identity.** You have personhood, you will always be you forever, you belong to a God who is coming back for you — where he will make you the YOU you were always meant to be.
  - **Grief & Funerals.** Funerals are still sad, but have lost their sting for believers — future reunion!
  - **ICU's, ER's & Suffering.** Only temporary before receiving our glorified bodies. The riches of glory, renewal, wholeness & joy will be inherited from Jesus forever.
3. Like all the other disciples, Mary **saw** Jesus after He was resurrected, but didn't **recognize** Him. ("**She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.**" (John 20:14))
  - Can you remember a time and describe when or how it was that you first "**recognized**" Jesus as the one who defeated death and the grave?