

# Chesswood Baptist Church

**Where Everybody is Somebody**

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**...IF CHRIST BE NOT RAISED, YOUR FAITH IS VAIN; YE ARE YET IN YOUR SINS.**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 21, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-18**

**1 Corinthians 15:13-17**, *But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15: Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16: For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*

### 1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message March 14, 2021

### 2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message March 14, 2021

### 3. SIX POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. ...how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1. **1 Corinthians 15:12**, *Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*
2. As we look deep in the scriptures, we find that there were people who said there was no possibility of a resurrection.
3. Not only did they deny the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, but they also said there no such thing as a resurrection. At one point, as Paul preached the resurrection, some thought it was strange doctrine. **Acts 17:18**, *Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.*
4. We know this is totally false. Not only has Christ risen from the dead, which is the heart of the Gospel, but also there will be resurrections to follow. **1 Corinthians 15:20**, *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21: For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*  
**1 Corinthians 15:52**, *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18*, *For if we*

*believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15: For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18: Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

5. The Preserved Word of God tells us that Christ was the firstfruits which is what our main text is about.
  6. If you have firstfruits then you will have to have second fruits.
  7. There are several phases of the first resurrection. **Revelation 20:6, Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**
  8. The second resurrection has to do with the unsaved as they stand before the Great White Throne Judgment. **Revelation 20:6, Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**
  9. Paul drives home the point that the Lord Jesus Christ was in fact raised from the dead.
  10. We can depend on the Preserved Word of God. We must walk in the light as He is in the light and we will know the truth. **1 John 1:7, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. John 8:32, And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**
  11. The Bible tells us that the foundation we build upon is the Rock, which is not Peter, but the rock was Christ. **1 Corinthians 10:4, And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.**
  12. Several Sundays ago, we emphasized that Jesus Christ did come back from the dead in His glorified body. **Luke 24:39, Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**
  13. Paul now begins a series of "if's." I cannot help to chuckle to think that my mother was a teacher and she always told me that "if" was a crooked letter and there is something tangible and important behind it.
  14. Let us search for the important features behind Paul's "if's."
- b. ...if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen.**
1. **1 Corinthians 15:13, But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:**
  2. Notice the "if." **"if there be no resurrection."** – We know for sure that there is and was a resurrection. **Matthew 28:6, He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.**

3. Paul combines two elements here and says if there was no resurrection from the dead, then is Christ not risen?
  4. Paul goes on to tell us that Christ is the firstfruits and later during His coming He will change our vile bodies.
  5. The Preserved Word of God says in **1 Corinthians 15:52**, *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*
  6. If we are changed, we can then have a glorified body likened unto His glorified body and we will then have a home in Heaven.
- c. **...if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain,...**
1. **1 Corinthians 15:14**, And *if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*
  2. I have stressed the fact that if we deny the bodily resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, not only is our preaching in vain but we are still in our sin. To deny the bodily resurrection is truly another gospel. **Galatians 1:8**, *But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*
  3. **Romans 10:17**, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
  4. We know that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, came as a babe in a manger, and He walked the face of the earth for thirty-three years. **Hebrews 7:26**, *For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*
  5. We also know He went to the cross and died for our sin. **Isaiah 53:6**, *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.* **2 Corinthians 5:21**, *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
  6. There is no question that He was raised again for our justification. **Romans 4:25**, *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*
  7. If Christ be not raised, we might as well not attend church or believe the Gospel because we are all lost.
- d. **Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God.... if so be that the dead rise not.**
1. **1 Corinthians 15:15**, *Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.*
  2. **Paul is continuing the "if's."** *"if so be that the dead rise not."*
  3. If Christ be not raised, all the apostles were liars. Paul states that he is ready to die for the truth. **Acts 21:13**, *Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.*
  4. As a matter of fact, the Bible says *"Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ:"*

5. We know for a fact that there was an empty tomb. **Matthew 28:6**, *He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*
  6. The women went to the grave and the angel said in **Luke 24:5**, *And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?*
  7. After the resurrection, the apostles were willing to die for the Gospel. **Acts 21:13**, *Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.*
  8. We are not looking at something someone told us who did not know.
  9. These apostles were eyewitnesses. These women were at the tomb early in the morning and found it empty and the stone had been rolled away. **Mark 16:4**, *And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. Luke 24:2*, *And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.*
  10. They knew for a fact that the tomb was empty.
  11. Men and women will seldom die for a lie, but these were willing to die for the truth. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
  12. The Bible tells us that we will know the truth and the truth will set us free. **John 8:32**, *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
- e. **If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.**
1. **1 Corinthians 15:16-17**, *For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*
  2. I do not know how to drive the point home any plainer than the aforementioned verse makes it.
  3. We are all sinners; we were born in sin and shapen in iniquity. **Psalms 51:5**, *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
  4. It is only by the grace of God through the plan of salvation that God has laid down, (the resurrection being the central part of) that we are able to go to Heaven. **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
  5. If Christ be not raised, we are all lost, Hell bound and there is no hope for us. **1 Corinthians 15:19**, *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*
  6. Our faith is not vain, and we know that we are not yet in our sin. **Psalms 103:12**, *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Psalms 85:2*, *Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah. Jeremiah 33:8*, *And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. Titus 2:14*, *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Psalms 37:28*, *For the LORD loveth*

*judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*

**f. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.**

1. **1 Corinthians 15:18, *Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.***
2. There is a song that says, "Though millions have come there is still room for one, there is room at the cross for you."
3. By trusting the risen Christ as Saviour, we can have salvation, which gives us eternal life. **John 17:3, *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.***
4. Those who have fallen asleep, believing in the lord Jesus Christ, are not perished they are going to rise first. **Hebrews 11:13, *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.***
5. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*** This verse applies to those who are saved and born again from Pentecost to the rapture.
6. Those who have fallen asleep in Christ certainly are not perished because there was a resurrection.
7. Paul gives us another "if." And we will cover in the evening message.

**4. CONCLUSION**

- a. My friend, do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Him, you need to come to the foot of the cross.
- c. You need to realize that millions have come but there is still room for one.
- b. **Romans 3:23, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;***
- c. **Romans 3:10, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:***
- d. **Romans 10:9-10, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***
- e. Would you please stand?

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