



## #2 Slippery Slope or Gospel Hope?

**I Corinthians 15:12-20 (ESV)**

Review of 1 Corinthians 15:1-11...

- The Gospel is for both believers and unbelievers 15:1
- The Gospel is news to be proclaimed and received 15:1
- The Gospel has the power to save people 15:1-2
- The Gospel only saves those who hold fast to it with persevering faith 15:2
- The Gospel is not man-made 15:3
- The Gospel consists of news about historical events 15:3-8
- The Gospel reveals God's grace and applies it to sinful people—even God-haters 15:9-11

### WHAT IF JESUS DID NOT RISE FROM THE DEAD?

**1 Corinthians 15:12** *Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

**THE PRESUPPOSITION OF SOME:** “Dead people stay dead. Dead men do not rise. Resurrection of the body is a myth.”

**PAUL'S ARGUMENT:** Logically speaking, if dead people stay dead – if physical resurrection does not and cannot happen – then certain conclusions follow...

### THE SLIPPERY SLOPE: SEVEN DISASTROUS RESULTS OF DENYING THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

#### 1. Jesus was not **RAISED** from the Dead 15:13

**15:13** *But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.*

#### 2. Gospel Preaching is **POINTLESS** 15:14

**15:14** *And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain...*

#### 3. Faith is **USELESS** 15:14, 17

**15:14** *...and your faith is in vain...* <sup>17</sup>*your faith is futile*

#### 4. The Apostles were **LIARS** 15:15

**15:15** *We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.*

#### 5. Sin still **REIGNS** over People 15:17

**15:17** *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins*

#### 6. **DEAD** Believers are Damned 15:18

**15:18** *Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*

#### 7. Christians are the World's Most **PITIFUL** People 15:19

**15:19** *If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

## BUT... CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED!

**1 Corinthians 15:20** *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

So...

- Dead men DO rise, can rise, and will rise... when God the Giver of Life wants them to!
- The Gospel is true and gospel preaching matters!
- Faith in Christ is valid!
- The Apostles were preachers of the Truth!
- Believers will NOT perish, but will be raised to everlasting life!
- Believers, far from needing pity, are actually the people most to be envied in this world!

**“Because I live, you will live also” (John 14:19)**

#### BIBLE READING PLAN

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|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Neh. 12  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mon.: Neh. 13    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tues.: Esther 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wed.: Esther 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs.: Esther 3 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fri.: Esther 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sat.: Esther 5   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Esther 6  |

Steve Benninger, Lead Pastor  
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