"The Crux of Christianity"
1 Corinthians 15:12-23

C.I.T./S.—Jesus' resurrection means everything for our faith.
Purpose—To encourage our faith by affirming His resurrection.
Introduction—Jefferson's Bible—combined the teachings of Jesus, but rejected supernatural and removed those items, including the Resurrection of Jesus.

- The Biblical Argument for the Resurrection from the Dead.
  - Old Testament—**Job 19:26; Daniel 12:2**
  - Jesus—**Matt. 22:30-31; John 5:25-29; 11:25**
  - The Apostles—**Acts 4:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:16**
- Platonic Dualism
  - Two aspects to life—physical and spiritual
  - The physical was evil and spiritual was good
  - The Corinthians have already shown a propensity toward pagan thought and theology.
    - Misuse of Lord's Supper
    - Misuse of marriage relationship
    - Misuse of speaking in tongues
  - The last thing they would want was an evil body to be with them in eternity.
  - They now question the general resurrection from the dead.
- They believed that you could have all the benefits of Jesus without a bodily resurrection.
- But if you remove the resurrection, you lose everything.

I. ***The Horror of No Resurrection***—vs. 13-19

a. ***If there were no resurrection from the dead, the not even Christ would be resurrected.***

i. Jesus is both fully God and fully man.
ii. He died a legitimate human death and was raised back to a fully human life.
iii. He was not simply God in the image of a man or in a mirage of a man.
iv. He wasn't faking it, but legitimately died.
v. For it He didn't legitimately die, then he didn't pay for sins.
vi. Thus if the resurrection from the dead is not a thing, then it could not be applied to what happened to Jesus.

b. ***If Christ has not been resurrected, then the gospel is a lie.***

i. The crux of the gospel message is Jesus' resurrection—**1 Cor. 15:1-11**
ii. That message becomes a lie if there is no resurrection of Christ.
  1. The messenger either lies or misunderstood Jesus.
  2. Ultimately, the resurrection was of God, and thus God himself becomes a liar.
iii. Those who testified that they had seen Jesus become liars.
iv. If the Lord lied on one point, then the rest of the book could be a lie as well.

c. ***If the gospel is a lie, then your faith is in vain.***

i. **Romans 10:14-17**—We believe what we hear.
ii. Our faith is based upon the word of God that we hear and receive.

iii. If that message is faulty, then your faith and trust in that word is faulty.

d. If your faith is in vain, then your salvation is nonexistent.

i. Vain—worthless
ii. Example of lame man from the roof
iii. Our sins are not forgiven
iv. They were hoping for a spiritual heaven, but without the Resurrection of Christ, then there will be no heaven at all.
v. The dead in Christ will perish, total annihilation.

e. If your salvation is nonexistent, then your life is a waste.

i. We live a life of holiness and faith, trusting in God and hoping in salvation
ii. If we will not receive salvation after life, then we are wasting our time.
iii. We should be pitied above all else, because we spent our life following a lie and receiving the same as the lost.
iv. This is all worthless and we should shut it down and go home.

f. But He was raised from the dead.

II. ***The Hope of His Resurrection*** vs. 20-23

a. He has been raised from the dead, which then makes further implications.
b. If Jesus has been raised, then we will be raised.
   i. Those in Adam die.
   ii. Those in Christ will be raised.
   iii. He is the firstfruits, which means we will have the remainder of the harvest.
c. For those who have given their life to Christ, they have hope in their own future resurrection.
d. Illus.—**Romans 10:9-10**
e. Application
   i. Jesus Resurrection is the crux of Christianity.
   ii. Without Easter, we have nothing.
   iii. With Easter, we have everything.
   iv. Because He lives:
      1. I can trust His Word.
      2. I know my sins are forgiven.
      3. I have confidence in my future.
      4. I can live a life of faith, steadfastness, and suffering.

Conclusion

- The Truth of Jesus' resurrection brings everything in the Bible back.
- We can trust God's Word because He lives.
- We can trust Jesus because He lives.

Job 19:26 Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh.

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Daniel 12:2 Many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to eternal life, and some to disgrace and eternal contempt.

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. 31 Now concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven't you read what was spoken to you by God:

John 5:25 "Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted to the Son to have life in himself. 27 And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice 29 and come out-- those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live.

Acts 4:1 While they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple police, and the Sadducees confronted them, 2 because they were annoyed that they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. 16 But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our message? 17 So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.

Romans 10:9 If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.

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I. The H_____ of No R_____

If there were no R_____

a. then_____

b. Then _____

c. Then _____

d. Then _____

e. Then _____

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II. The H_____ of His R_____