

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

The Resurrection is Preached

- *Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." // Acts 23:6*
- *having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. // Acts 24:15*
- *And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead? // Acts 26:6-8*
- κηρύσσω kerysso - proclaim or preach; more specifically to become known publicly and loudly; news announced by a herald

The Resurrection of the...

- ἀνάστασις anastasis - Resurrection
- νεκρός necros - Necros is often translated as "dead or the dead" but it literally means "corpse."
- In 1 Corinthians 15:12b, there is no definite article in front of νεκρός which means Paul is referring to the resurrection of *all* corpses, bodies, dead.

Cultural Background for 1 Corinthians 15

- Skepticism or outright disbelief of a bodily resurrection was the common view of Greek culture at the time
 - *Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." // Acts 17:32*
 - Aeschylus, for example, had written: "When the dust hath drained the blood of a man, once he is slain, there is no resurrection."

- Plutarch believed "that only the soul could attain to the realm of the gods, through freeing itself of attachment to the senses and becoming 'pure, fleshless, and undefiled.' "
- "Commonly the Greeks believed that at death, only a person's soul was taken by the ferryman across the River Styx to the gloomy world of the shades. This animistic idea that only the soul survives death in a shadowy, unhappy existence has been common to most non-Christian cultures, even highly advanced cultures like those of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece. Only Christianity has been brightened by the hope of the resurrection of the body." // Lockwood, G. J. (2000). *1 Corinthians* (p. 561). Concordia Pub. House.

The Consequences of no resurrection

- (15:14) *If Christ has not been raised then...*
 - Our preaching is in vain
 - Your faith is in vain
 - Christians are false witnesses about God
 - κενός kenos - empty-handed; devoid of any advantage or benefit
- (15:17) *If Christ has not been raised then...*
 - Your faith is futile
 - You are still in your sins
 - Those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished

The Sleeping Place

- Koimeterion (cemetery) comes from the verb κοιμάω koimaō ("to sleep")
 - "Cemeteries are "sleeping places." The very name is a confession that Jesus is not done with the bodies that are buried there. Resurrection awaits." // Chad Bird

More than hope for this life

- ἐλεεινός eleeinos - miserable

The Power of the Gospel

- Romans 1:4-5