

**What If?  
Easter 2017  
Pastor Bill Bowers  
April 16, 2017**

**Scripture: I Corinthians 15**

Alternative History. What would be different in the present if a certain event **wouldn't** have happened in the past?

**“And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless and your faith is useless.” I Corinthians 15:14**

If Jesus has not been raised from the dead, then **“everything you’ve staked your life on is smoke and mirrors.” The Message (paraphrase)**

**“And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.” I Corinthians 15:17**

**“Look, if Jesus hasn’t risen from the dead, then ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.’” 15:32**

**“If our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are to be pitied more than anyone else in the world.” 15:19**

**“Look, but Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.” 15:20**

Recommended reading: *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel.

**“So my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.” 15:58**

1. **Because Jesus rose from the dead I have purpose.**
2. **Because Jesus rose from the dead I have grace.**
3. **Because Jesus has risen from the dead, I have hope.**

**“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” 15:55**

## Life & Death (Pt 7)

### Easter: What If?

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#### LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- Easter is a celebration of recognition of the resurrection of Christ. Pastor Bill quoted a statement by the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 15:17, 19); saying, *"And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins...If our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are to be pitied more than anyone else in the world."* How do these statements make you feel? How does your faith relate with them?
- The entirety of 1 Corinthians 15 is about Christ's resurrection, how the resurrection affects humanity, and the subsequent resurrection of Christ-followers. Take the time to read this chapter once or twice. In what ways is your personal faith affected by the resurrection? Can you be specific, adding tangible examples or illustrations from your daily life that give testimony to your belief in the resurrection?
- Pastor Bill gave us three examples of how the resurrection can affect us. Would you write out, in your own words, how each of these examples are illustrated in your life?
  - How does the resurrection of Jesus provide you with purpose?
  - In what ways does the resurrection impart grace to you?
  - How does Jesus' resurrection provide you with hope?
- If someone is unfamiliar with the life of Christ, how would you share the gift of Jesus through his resurrection with them? What information would you present and what questions would you ask them?
- In some of the Apostle's closing words, we find him speaking, *"For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Do you put faith in these words? Why or why not?