

What If Sunday Never Came...?

Easter Sunday (See, it *did* come!)

April 4, 2009

What if Jesus Never Rose from the Dead?

- **The World Would Be a BETTER Place...**
And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 1 Corinthians 15:14
- **The World Would Be NO DIFFERENT...**
The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Mark 1:22
- **The World Would Be HOPELESS...**
God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. Romans 1:28, cf. vv. 24, 26

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all others. 1 Corinthians 15:14-19

- **Christian Faith is WASTED!** (vv. 14, 17-18)
- **Christ-Followers Are LIARS... And So is CHRIST!**
(v. 15)

- **We're Still Stuck in Our MUCK!** (v. 17)
- **Christ-Followers Are a PITIFUL Lot!** (v.19)

BUT... What if He DID?

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

- **My Past is FORGIVEN...**
"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57
- **My Future is SECURE...**
Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
- **My Present is STABLE...**
Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58-59