

Christ the First Fruits (1 Corinthians 15:12-34)

- Error in the Corinthian church: body of believers don't rise from the dead
- Church was in error of what is called hyper-spirituality/super spirituality
- Paul lays down common ground (1-11) believed Jesus' body was from dead
- Not seeking to prove the resurrection but to combat really bad teaching
- He forces his opponents to face the logic of their own position.

I. If You are right (false teachers) what are the Implications

1. #1. If they are right, the Christ was not raised from the dead (vv13)
2. #2. If they are right: "Your faith is empty" (v.14)
3. #3. If they are right: Apostles are guilty of being false witnesses
4. #4. If they are right: Their faith is futile, empty, meaningless

II. What Are the Implications of My (Apostles') Belief (15:20-28)

1. If we are right: Christ is the first fruits of those fallen asleep (v.20)
2. If we are right: Everyone is raised from the dead in their order (v.23)
3. If we are right: The resurrection is about a new, sin-free world (v.23)
4. Resurrection to place that God may be all in all (His glory) (vv.24-28)

III. Practical living: If You are Right What are the Implications

1. *If the dead are not raised*, why are people baptized for them (v29)
2. *If the dead are not raised*. why endanger ourselves every hour (vv30-32)
3. *If the dead are not raised*, let's eat, drink, be merry: tomorrow we die (v32)