

THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIANITY

“AN if that leads to a WHY”

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INTRODUCTION

TEXT: *“but had certain questions against him of their own religion, and of one Jesus, who was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.” Acts 25:19.*

1. Paul has been kept in prison for two years.
2. Felix is called to Rome and Festus replaces him.
3. The Jews immediately bring Paul to Festus attention and in effect offer to take the problem off the governor “Just send him to Jerusalem...we will take care of Paul.”
4. Festus wants to, but Paul as a Roman citizen appeals to Caesar. V. 10.
5. Festus makes plans for king Agrippa to hear the case.
6. Festus sums up the charge against Paul as “**having preached that one Jesus who was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.**” v. 19.
7. Everything about the Gospel and Christianity hinges on whether Christ is now alive...let us notice;

IF there is no resurrection WHY are we baptized for the dead.

RESURRECTION OF DEAD

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- A. In I Corinthians 15, Paul’s argument for the resurrection has been:
1. FIRST: That Christ has been raised from the dead according to the scripture. (v. 4) And His resurrection witnessed by many. (vs. 5-8).
 2. SECOND: If there is no resurrection:
 - a. Then Christ was not raised.
 - b. All of the witnesses mentioned were false witnesses.
 - c. Those who die in Christ perish.
 - d. And those who live in Christ perish, because if Christ is not raised, then he cannot come again.
 3. THIRD: That by man (Adam) came death. By man (Christ) came also the resurrection of the dead. (vs. 20-24).
 4. FOURTH: If these things be not so then there is no God, or at best a God with limited power. (It is God who is said to have subjected all things to Christ. And the last enemy to subjected (abolished) is death. That this has been done (Christ raised from the dead) by the power of God (Col. 2;12) and will be completed when death is abolished (the resurrection of all) vs. 24=28).
 5. FIFTH: Otherwise, if there is nor resurrection, then Christ has not been raised, the dead will not be raised, there is no God. Eat, drink, for tomorrow we die. (vs. 29-32).
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FOUNDATION OF GOSPEL

- A. I Corinthians 15:4: The Gospel that was preached by Paul.
1. "First of all that which I received, that Christ died for our sins".
 2. "And that he was raised on the third day".
 3. "And he appeared to Cephas, the twelve, and to above 500, then to James and last of all to me.."
- B. "ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURE"
1. God knew before (Acts 2) that Jesus would die.
 2. Told this in His word (beginning in O.T. see Isa. 53. Continued through Matt. Mark, Luke, and John).
 3. Created faith in God....His Word.....His Power....His Integrity
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IF CHRIST NOT RAISED....

- A. FOUR THINGS:
1. "Your faith is vain"
 - a. Man would lose all confidence in God.
 - b. Confidence in God's word would be destroyed.
 2. "Ye are yet in your sins" BECAUSE:
 - a. Christ was raised for our justification.
 - b. If forgiveness goes ...all goes..
 - (1). No Hope; (2) No Peace (3) No happiness (4) No freedom.
 3. All who are asleep in Jesus are perished.
 4. And there would be no promise : No John 14:1-4.
- B. ALL THAT WOULD BE LEFT WOULD BE TROUBLED HEARTS...
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BY THE POWER OF GOD

- A. Col. 2:12 "Raised by the Working of God.
1. Acts 2:24
 2. I Cor. 6:14; Raised Christ and us..."through His power".
 3. Eph. 1:19-20; "according to that working of the strength of his might which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead."
- B. The Bible Again and Again declares the Power of God by the Resurrection of Christ from the grave.
1. One ref. lists 29 different scriptures.
 2. From mans point of view...The power over death is the greatest...because death is the greatest enemy.
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BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD

- A. *"Else what shall they do that are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? why do we also stand in jeopardy every hour? I protest by the glorying in you, brethren, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily, if after the manner of men I fought with beasts at Ephesus, what doth it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." (I Cor. 15:29-32).*
- B. Who are the dead? And Why be baptized for them?
- C. A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PARAGRAPH...BY COMPARISON.

1. The Error Taught..... "The dead are not raised"
2. The Question Prompted....."What Does It Profit Me?"
3. The Action Considered:
 - a. "I Die Daily".
 - b. "We live in Jeopardy"
 - c. "They are baptized for the dead"
4. THE RESULTS: Eat, Drink for Tomorrow we die.

1. The Truth Taught by Paul... "The Dead Are Raised...Christ the First fruits then we..."
2. The Question Answered;.. "What Doth It Profit Me?"
3. The Actions That were Considered:
 - a. "I die Daily"
 - b. We live in Jeopardy.
 - c. They are baptized for the dead.

D. THE RESULTS:

1. Paul died daily because he did not fear those who could harm only the body.
2. We live in jeopardy because of the greatness of the reward.
3. They were baptized for the dead that they might be a part of the resurrection.

- E. **QUESTION:** if baptized for the dead means for someone other than themselves, why doesn't dying daily mean for someone else, and being in jeopardy mean for someone else? All three statements were brought about by the same error.

- F. Those who were being baptized, were doing so, for themselves, that when Christ comes, they (that are dead) may be raised and glorified with Him.

Every thing is based on THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST!