

First Corinthians 15:12-34

15:12 – “has been raised” is *egertai* in perfect tense which emphasizes the present reality of a historical event. This same verb form is used seven times (15:4, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20).

The conditional sentences that begin with “if it is preached that Christ has been raised” involve the first class condition in the Greek (*ei de*) which is the viewpoint of reality that can be stated as “If, and I know it to be true” or “If it is preached as it is that Christ has been raised. This appears in 15:12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19.

15:13-15 –

Paul states that IF it is a fact that the dead ARE NOT raised, then these things must still be true:

1. There is no resurrection of Christ (15:13)
2. Teaching that Jesus was resurrected has no real meaning (15:14a)
3. Faith in Christ has no value. It is like wishing on a star that merely inspires misdirected human hope and emotion (15:14b)
4. Paul's personal testimony God is false and Paul is not promoting the true God (and, this is the case for all of the apostles.) (15:15)

15:16 – If there is NO physical resurrection (or, if it is impossible for a corpse to come back to life), then even Jesus' resurrection is impossible. And, if Jesus has not been resurrected everything in Christianity changes. In fact, it changes into a lie with preachers presenting a message of deception.

15:17 – begins with *ei de* which will continue to build on the thought that Jesus was never raised and unravel ALL of Christianity.

1. Faith is *kenos*, which means “vain” and “meaningless” (15:14)
2. Faith is *mataios*, which means “fruitless” (15:17) which means there is no production, change, growth or benefit from believing Christianity. Only emotional energy and delusional hope.
3. If Christ's death was “for our sins” then we have not been delivered from sin because Christ's resurrection proved that God had justified us (15:17b). This means Romans 5:1 is NOT true.
4. Those who died confident in the Christian faith entered the spiritual world with NO hope and are now in a state of damnation. (15:18)
5. Christians are the most stupid of all the followers of religion because their hope is set on a lie. Christians should be pitied because they suffer in time on the earth and then perish for eternity. Christianity is a lose/lose if Jesus has not been resurrected.

1:20-28

“But...indeed” (*nyni de*) is both emphatic and conclusive alternative often used by Paul to present crucial confirmations of the Christian faith throughout his letters (1 Cor. 13:13; Rom. 3:21; Rom. 6:22; Rom. 7:6; Col 1:22)

1. Firstfruits – comes along with the Greek phrase *hekastos en toi idioi tagmati* or “each in his own group” which focuses on the different times involved in the resurrections that began with the first one, Christ's resurrection.
2. Adam vs Jesus (15:21-22)

15:29-34

1. “baptized for the dead” (15:29)
2. Menander's comedy, “Thais”, provides Paul a quote concerning the false teachers with bad doctrine. (15:33)
3. “Stop sinning” means “stop listening to bad teaching” and “stop accepting false concepts about Christianity.”