

Easter 2018

“April Fools?”

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NLT)

If there is no resurrection we are fools.

But tell me this - since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And we apostles would all be lying about God - for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NLT)

April Fools!

There is no hope.

And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

1 Corinthians 15:19 (NLT)

There is no meaning.

And if there is no resurrection, “Let’s feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!”

1 Corinthians 15:32b (NLT)

There is no right or wrong.

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

1 John 2:16-17 (NLT)

You are not really you.

Your life is like the morning fog - it’s here a little while, then it’s gone.

James 4:14b (NLT)

SO WHAT?

He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:5-7 (NLT)

But, if the resurrection is true...

Hope has a name. (Jesus)

And his name will be the hope of all the world.”

Matthew 12:21 (NLT)

Everything matters.

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)

Work for Justice.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.

*Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless,
and see that they get justice.*

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT)

You will always be you.

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

John 5:24 (NLT)

Are you a fool?

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is the best prank you ever played on someone?

What is the best prank someone played on you?

2. Webster's recently removed the word 'gullible' from the dictionary. Are you typically quick to believe something or more skeptical? Why?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-19. The Corinthians were facing ridicule from the people around them about their belief in Jesus. When have people questioned your beliefs? How did you respond?

4. Re-read 1 Corinthians 15:17-19. If Christ has not been raised, how would it change your outlook on life?

What changes if the resurrection is true?

5. Re-read John 5:24. How and why did you decide to believe in Jesus and the resurrection? If you have not decided yet, what is the stumbling block for you to believe?

6. If everything matters, what area of your life do you need to give more fully to Jesus today?

How can you tangibly do that? (use your growth group to help you answer that question and hold you to it.)