

The Argument for Our Hearts the Resurrection is True

And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? 31 I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” 1 Corinthians 15:30-32

What is Paul saying?

Now if the dead aren’t raised at all, or if Jesus wasn’t raised and I wasn’t raised in Him, there is no reason at all to live an unselfish life.

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 1Corinthians 15:19

If Christ is not raised, I blew it, I wasted all this time energy and even risked cutting short the few moments that a physical life affords me.

Let the resurrection argue with your heart

into incredible confidence.

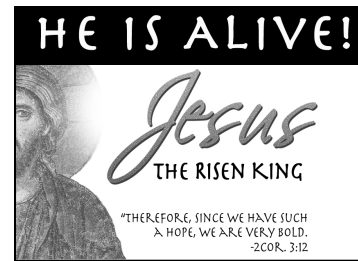
Let it argue with your conscience

into incredible courage

And let it argue with your mind

into a Savior who is real.

Sierra Community Church Dan Wilvers April 7th, 8th 2012



If Christ Has Not Been Raised...

Paul’s great reasoning from 1 Corinthians Chapter 15

The Argument for Our Minds the Resurrection is True

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 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.

1 Corinthians 15:14,15

3 Parts To Paul’s Argument For Our Minds

1. The Empty Tomb

that he was buried, that *he was raised* on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:4

2. The Eyewitnesses

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:5,6

3. The Changed Lives

...and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ...Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Corinthians 15:5,7,8

kgulln Acts Chapter 26 Paul under arrest shares with the Roman Governor Festus and also King Agrippa the reason for his work.

8 Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?9 “I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. *On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.* 11 *Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.*12 “On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. 13 About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. 14 We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ 15 “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’“ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. 16 ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’19 “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. 20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. ... I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— 23 that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the **Gentiles.**”

24 At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. **“You are out of your mind, Paul!”** he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.”25 “I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable. 26 The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of

this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner.

Argument for Our Conscience the Resurrection is True

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 1 Corinthians 15:17

How did Paul get past his past? In verse 9 he makes a brief allusion to it. (see italics of Acts 26 previous page)

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Corinthians 15:9

How would you ever live with yourself?
How could you ever get your confidence back?
How can you get past your past?

Vs 10 Paul asserts his position as the hardest working apostle But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 1 Corinthians 15:10

Paul is saying I’m no longer in my sins because of the resurrection. **What does that mean?**

God’s grace did it, it changed me, and despite my great shame I stood up and was counted among his followers, and despite my great shame outworked them all.