

WAS GOD SATISFIED WITH CHRIST'S DEATH?

1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Romans 10:9

Introduction: Paul wrote this text to argue the resurrection of Jesus for there was much disbelief in such a thing as becoming alive again after being dead and buried (as there is today as well). The Corinthians view of death was that the body was evil and one is better to be rid of the body. Also there was the Epicurean view that death ended ALL existence, then there was the Stoic view that death merged the soul with God and all one's personalities were gone and then there was Plato who stated that the soul lives on but with no body.

Paul believed that Jesus Christ died for sin and that God raised Jesus Christ up from the dead as proof of His acceptance of Jesus' sacrificial death, that Jesus Christ's resurrected body bore the marks of the cross and that ever believer in Jesus Christ shall also be resurrected with a perfect body as that which Jesus had upon His resurrection.

I. WHAT IF JESUS CHRIST HAD NOT BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD?

1. **v12, 13** - There was much controversy over death by the Corinthians (the Greek world) and Paul gave steps to prove Jesus' resurrection which included:
 - Old Testament prophecies, eye witnesses, Jesus' own words foretelling His resurrection.
2. Paul gives a "what if," "play like" hypothetical situation about "if Christ be not raised" and gives six problems of Christianity if Christ be not raised.

II. HYPOTHETICAL PROBLEMS IF CHRIST BE NOT RAISED

1. **v14** - All preaching is useless, in vain, so stop playing church, missions, etc.
 - Faith is useless for a dead person cannot be of help anymore than an idol can.
2. **v15** - All so called "Christians" are liars. Sunday School teachers, pastors, evangelists, music leaders, all who tell others that Jesus Christ is alive or is risen from the tomb. They are all liars.
3. **v16** - The world will accept Jesus' birth, His life, His death, but NOT His resurrection.
4. **v 17** - Faith is empty/void of all truth for faith is in nothing if in a dead person.
5. **v18** - Those who died believing in Jesus Christ are gone forever. There is no hope of ever seeing Jesus.
6. **v19** - Christians are miserable and are to be pitied for they have not enjoyed all that the world has offered them.
7. **v20** - However, IF Jesus Christ has indeed risen from the dead, then He is the FIRST fruits, the first of millions of believers in Him who will follow Him in their own resurrection.

III. DID CHRIST'S DEATH MEET EVERY DEMAND OF GOD?

1. Jesus went to the cross and there gave His life as a sacrifice for OUR sins.
 - While on the cross, God's wrath was poured out upon Him causing Jesus to cry out "*...My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me...?*"
 - Jesus' death, burial, His promises, the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled exactly.
2. Did Jesus Christ's death meet every penalty for sin?
 - Did Jesus Christ's death do away with every sin forever?
 - Was God satisfied with Jesus Christ's sacrifice?
 - Was God able then to offer salvation to man?

3. Salvation (ours) depends upon Jesus Christ's truthfulness.
 - OUR salvation depends upon God being satisfied with Jesus Christ's sacrifice to do away with OUR sins.
4. IF Jesus Christ's death didn't satisfy God -
 - IF Jesus Christ's death didn't pay for ALL sin -
 - IF Jesus Christ failed in ANY way -
 - THEN Jesus Christ could not have returned to heaven even if resurrected!
 - FOR Jesus Christ became SIN and there is no sin in heaven.

CONCLUSION:

1. How do we know Jesus Christ succeeded?
 - How do we know that God was/is satisfied?
2. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead as proof of His satisfaction -
 - Proof that sin had/has been paid for.
 - Proof that all believers in Jesus Christ shall also be resurrected.
3. Jesus Christ sits in heaven today interceding for those who believe in Him.
4. Our earthly bodies get sick and grow old, but because of Jesus Christ, one day we shall have new bodies that will never get sick or grow old again and have our place in Heaven with the Lord Jesus.