

WHAT IF THE STONE HAD NOT BEEN MOVED?

1 Corinthians 15:14-20

Introduction: What would it be like today if the stone that covered the tomb where Jesus had been laid had never been rolled back? What if the guards kept on pacing back and forth all night and day for months and nothing ever changed? What if there had been no angels, no resurrection of Jesus?

1. All Christian Preaching Would be a Waste of Time.

- All the sermons ever heard or read would have been just wasted time.
- What is left to Christianity when the resurrection of Jesus is taken away?
- What of the teachings of Jesus?
- What of the example of living that Jesus gave?
- What about the death of Jesus on our (everyone's) behalf?
- There would be no Holy Spirit power available to help us.
- We would be even more condemned as Jesus' teachings reveal how much farther away from God we are.
- All promises made by Jesus would be empty, amounting to nothing.

2. All Christian Faith Would be Useless.

- If there still were a "Church," what would be the point of going?
- What would be the point of reading the Bible?
- What would be the point of praying.
- Christianity would be nothing more than just another religion.
- Life would have no meaning, no hope, and death would bring a final and hopeless end to life.
- When the resurrection of Jesus is taken away, only despair is left.

3. The Apostles Are the World's Greatest Liars.

- They misrepresented God in telling that God raised up Jesus from the grave.
- They would be deceivers instead of honored men of the truth.
- They would be hypocrites, deliberate deceivers who have led multitudes into darkness and error.

4. All Our Past Sins Are Still With Us.

- We (believers in Jesus) would still be in our sins.
- We (believers in Jesus) must stand before God to give an account.
- We would have no place to hide, no escape the coming justice, no mercy, no loving Jesus Christ to stand up for us.
- We would get everything we deserve for every evil action or thought we ever had.

5. We Shall Never See Our Loved Ones Again.

- Never see our loved ones again who also were believers in Jesus who have died and gone on into eternity.
- Our parents, children, brothers, sisters, friends snatched away in death would be gone forever from our sight, gone for good, never to be seen again.

6. We Are to be Most Pitied of All People.

- All our dreams of a mansion, new body, streets of gold, eternal happiness with God will never happen.
- We would have to go back to coldness, selfishness, drabness, darkness of life.
- All made worse because we once thought we had escaped all the terrors of lostness, that we had hold of something beautiful and wonderful.
- If there be no resurrection, it all crumbles away from us.

CONCLUSION:

1. Would you like to live like that?
 - Would you like to be ignorant of the risen Christ and what He offers?
2. That is why the world is caught up in all the continual noise and action of running from this to that, not wanting to think about death and what might lie beyond it, always trying to find something reassuring.
3. What a transformation the resurrection of Jesus Christ makes.
 - It is unnecessary for people to live in darkness and ignorance.
 - Jesus came to bring light and eternal life.
4. Thankfully, that stone was rolled away, the angels did come and Jesus did come out of that tomb, alive.
 - Now whosoever believes on Jesus Christ can have eternal life, it happened, it is true.