

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

1 CORINTHIANS 15: 12-20

12. Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead except that ye believeth neither the preaching nor my many writings especially those with super-long sentences that go on and on without any punctuation?

13. But if there be no resurrection of the dead, as some say, though I do not, but some do, verily, trust me, then is Christ not risen, is he heck, for that is the logical conclusion from that argument:

14. And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and we wasteth our breath and our time when we could have been mending tents and building up our business. And we would be missing out on all those Mediterranean cruises. And besides that, your faith is also vain.

15. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. I hope you are following this?

16. For, as I have said, if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised, *as sure as eggs are eggs;

17. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain. And vain is your faith. And mine. And hers. And moreover, let me expand the argument; if Christ be not raised (for ye contend that the dead are not raised) ye are yet in your sins. I know it's complicated but try and keep up.

18. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished, for if there is no resurrection of Christ then none are raised, as I have said. Repeatedly. (Oh, do pay attention, Stephanas!)

19. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men and women most miserable, more miserable than Samaritans, though they be not as miserable as you suppose.

20. But now, see I write this in my own hand for my scribe is wearied with these convolutions – CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, verily and forsooth, and become the firstfruits* of them that slept. Wake up at the back!

*The original allegory is uncertain but seems to refer to bread and circuses. The translators used a popular 16th century idiom in its place.

*(Verse 20) Here Paul ignores the three resurrections recorded in the Hebrew scriptures in order to make his point, but in doing so raises a theological confusion.

- The prophet Elijah prays and God raises a young boy from death (1 Kings 17:17-24)
- Elisha raises the son of the Woman of Shunem (2 Kings 4:32-37) whose birth he previously foretold (2 Kings 4:8-16)
- A dead man's body that was thrown into the dead Elisha's tomb is resurrected when the body touches Elisha's bones (2 Kings 13:21)