

THE INCENTIVES OF RESURRECTION — 1 CORINTHIANS 15:29-34

If You Remove the Resurrection, You Remove Incentives...

1 You Remove an Incentive To **SALVATION**



Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? (1Co.15:29)

v.29

- Principle of biblical interpretation: you never generate a doctrine out of an obscure text when no other text in the Bible teaches it. No one is saved by baptism living or dead (He.9:27).
- Christian baptism is in view here. Whenever you see in the New Testament the idea of being baptized, it always has relationship to salvation. Think of baptism as synonymous with salvation. Baptism pictures the reality of existing salvation.
- This goes back to the words of the Great Commission. "Go into all the world and make disciples...baptizing them." When Paul talks to the people in Acts 19 who were disciples of John and asks them if they've been baptized, he's not talking about some ritual. He wants to know if they've been saved by faith in Christ. Here, Paul is saying, "What about those people, unbelievers, who are being saved?" Why would people get saved and be baptized if the dead do not rise?

A ELEMENT OF DEATH — HOPE

- When a Christian dies with confidence, faith, and hope that may draw somebody else to Christ. There have been people come to Christ simply because they've seen the hope in the heart of a believer.
- It seems Paul is saying, "If there is no resurrection, then why are some unbelievers being baptized (having already believed on Christ) because of the great hope they see in those that have died?"

B ELEMENT OF DEATH — REUNITED

- Paul is saying, if there is no REUNIONS or HOPE why are people getting saved with these anticipations? The hope of the resurrection held by saved people was, after they died, a powerful incentive to their loved ones still living to be saved and baptized.



2 You Remove an Incentive To **SERVICE**



³⁰ And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? ³¹ I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

³² If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE!" (1Co.15:30-32)

v.30-32

- Paul is saying, "if there's no resurrection, why am I doing this?" If there's no resurrection – like some were saying in the Corinthian church – then there's no reason to give my life as a sacrifice now.
- You remove all the glory and reward, and nobody's going to bother with service.
- This is not dying daily in the terms of devotion to Christ. Paul is saying, "Every day I'm one step away from dying physically. This is no exaggeration" (2Co.4:8-10). Humanly speaking Paul is throwing his life away. Do not go out and give your life a sacrifice every hour of every day for a cause that isn't going to come to pass anyway.

3 You Remove an Incentive To **SANCTIFICATION**



³³ Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." ³⁴ Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. (1Co.15:33-34)

v.33-34

- If you deny the truth of the resurrection, you have removed an incentive to good living. Stop being deceived by hanging around evil people. Bad theology corrupts good morals. Some in the church do not truly know God, and so, they were espousing heresy.