



MESSY church

A STUDY OF 1ST CORINTHIANS

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it was preached and received;

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it established the believers standing, and destiny;

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and evidenced by historical human testimony.

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‘Some Corinthians’ were “off the rails” when it came to their understanding of what happens after someone dies...
...thinking that there is no such thing as ‘resurrection’.

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‘Resurrection’ (a biblical understanding) is the truth that everyone is designed for a *“physical reality in eternity”*; some will end up with an eternal and personal connection with God and some to an eternal separation from God.

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It was common among the pagan religions of the 1st century to believe in some sort of 'spiritual' or 'soulish' afterlife of a "liberated spirit" that finds little or nothing to moor itself to...a bodily resurrection was unheard of.



“In Greek thought, the concept of physical resurrection was generally foreign and not a desired or expected outcome of death. While the Greeks believed in immortality, particularly through the continued existence of the soul, they didn't envision a return to a physical, earthly body. This contrasts with some interpretations of Jewish belief and later Christian doctrine, which emphasize a resurrection of the body.

The Greeks primarily associated immortality with the soul's continued existence after death, often in a shadowy afterlife like Hades or in blessed realms like the Elysian Fields.

The idea of a general resurrection of all the dead was not a common Greek belief, and some figures like Asclepius, who was killed for resurrecting the dead, highlight the potential negative view of resurrection.

Jewish traditions, particularly in later texts like the Book of Daniel, began to develop the concept of a physical resurrection, and this idea became central to Christian theology, especially with the resurrection of Jesus.”

Hades

Hades is a figure from Greek mythology, known as the god of the Underworld and the dead. He is also the name of the realm he rules, which is located beneath the earth. While often depicted as stern and associated with death, Hades is not inherently evil and plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance between life and death.

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Elysian Fields


Also known as Elysium, is a concept from ancient Greek mythology representing a paradise for the blessed dead. It's often described as a place of idyllic beauty, peace, and happiness, where heroes and virtuous individuals reside after death. The concept is similar to the modern idea of heaven.

The concept of Elysian Fields was used to encourage bravery and virtue in life, as it offered the promise of a blessed afterlife for those who lived righteous lives.

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Asclepius is the ancient Greek god of medicine and healing. He is often depicted with a staff entwined with a snake, which is the symbol of medicine. In mythology, he was the son of Apollo and the mortal woman Coronis. He was renowned for his healing abilities, **even raising the dead**, which ultimately led to his death at the hands of Zeus to maintain cosmic balance.

In some versions of the myth, Coronis was unfaithful to Apollo, who then killed her. Before she died, Apollo rescued their unborn child by cutting him from her womb, hence his name, which means "to cut open".

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Asclepius was a skilled healer who could cure illnesses and even bring the dead back to life.

This power, while admired by many, ultimately angered Hades (god of the Underworld) and Zeus (king of the gods), who believed it disturbed the natural order.

Because of his power to cheat death, Zeus struck Asclepius down with a thunderbolt. After his death, Asclepius was deified and became the god of medicine, and his image was placed among the stars as the constellation Ophiuchus.

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Temples dedicated to Asclepius were built throughout Greece. People would visit these temples to seek healing and cures.



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The 'resurrection' of Christ was the model and first example of what is going to happen to us and explained not only historically but also logically, theologically, and experientially.

I Corinthians 15:12-34

- ¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead,
how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?
- ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead,
then not even Christ has been raised.
- ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised,
then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
- ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God,
because we testified about God that He raised Christ,
whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

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**Logical Argument for 'resurrection':
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Logical Argument for 'resurrection': v.12-19

- 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.
17 And if Christ has not been raised,
 your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only,
 we are of all people most to be pitied.

Theological Argument for 'resurrection': v.20-28

- 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- 21 For as by a man came death,
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
- 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits,
then at His coming those who belong to Christ.
- 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the
Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.
- 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.
- 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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Theological Argument for 'resurrection': v.20-28

- 27 For "God has put all things in subjection under His feet."
But when it says, "all things are put in subjection,"
it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection
under Him.
- 28 When all things are subjected to Him,
then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all
things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all.

Experiential Argument for 'resurrection': v.29-34

29 Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead?

If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?

30 Why are we in danger every hour?

31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you,
which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

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Experiential Argument for 'resurrection': v.29-34

- 32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus?
If the dead are not raised,
“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”
- 33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”
- 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right,
and do not go on sinning.
For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

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Our lives, and the way we live, matters.

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Our lives echo in eternity.

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Without the resurrection we are hopeless.

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With the resurrection we can have an eternal perspective of why our lives matter and what to do with them in the here and now.

