**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | What If There Had Been No Easter? |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2404 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Here is an unthinkable question: What if there had been no Easter?
      1. What if Jesus Christ stayed in that tomb?
      2. What if death had conquered?
   2. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
   3. Jesus Christ came forth from the tomb. He is a risen Savior.
   4. But if we suppose that Jesus did not rise from the dead, there are six tragic things that would be true.
2. preaching would be profitless
   1. Preaching would be an exercise in futility if Christ is still in that grave.
      1. 1 Corinthians 15:14
      2. Every liberal preacher who does not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ should go get an honest job.
      3. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
      4. Without the resurrection, there is no Gospel to preach.
      5. A sermon that does not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a profitless, worthwhile exercise in futility.
3. faith would be foolish
   1. 1 Corinthians 15:14
   2. Why put faith in a dead Messiah?
      1. Faith is no better than its object.
      2. A dead man can’t save anyone.
   3. How do we know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God incarnate?
      1. Romans 1:4
      2. Leaders of other faiths—Confucius, Buddha, Mohammad—all died and are still dead; Jesus Christ is alive.
   4. We don’t put our faith in a dead Messiah. But if He’s still in that grave, faith is foolish.
4. the disciples are decievers
   1. I Corinthians 15:15-16
   2. It’s one thing to be mistaken; it’s another thing to be a false witness.
   3. What Paul says is, “If Jesus Christ is still in the grave, then we’re telling a lie.”
   4. If the disciples were liars, why would they deceive?
      1. People lie to gain something.
         1. The disciples died as martyrs.
            1. They were tortured, persecuted, humiliated, burned at the stake, eaten by lions, stoned and crushed to death.
         2. Hypocrites and martyrs are not made of the same stuff.
      2. People tell lies to get out of trouble, not to get into trouble.
         1. A man may live for a lie, but few if any will willingly, knowingly die for a lie.
   5. The disciples were testifying that Jesus was alive, saying, “We have seen Him! We have touched Him!”
      1. Would you say that Simon Peter was a con man?
         1. That John the apostle was a crook?
         2. That the apostle Paul was a known perjurer and a false witness?
         3. And that these men would die for a lie?
         4. Of course we would not say any of that, but if Christ is still in the grave, the disciples would be deceivers.
5. sin would be sovereign
   1. Sin has won.
   2. 1 Corinthians 15:17
   3. All of us have sinned. There’s not a one who has not sinned.
   4. We are all sinners by birth, by nature, by practice, by choice, and we have no hope of forgiveness apart from the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. God cannot just overlook our sin.
         1. If God were to cease to judge sin, God would cease to be holy.
      2. God never lets sin go unpunished.
         1. Your sin will be pardoned in Christ or punished in Hell, but it will never be overlooked.
   5. But if Jesus Christ is still in the grave, it means that God did not accept the sacrifice of Calvary.
   6. How do we know that Jesus Christ was not just a religious fanatic? How do we know that God accepted the sacrifice of Calvary?
      1. The resurrection.
         1. Romans 4:25
         2. No resurrection, no Savior. No Savior, no forgiveness. His death without His resurrection cannot save anybody.
   7. If Christ is still in the grave, we have no hope of Heaven because we are yet in our sins, and the wages of sin is death.
      1. Romans 6:23
      2. Ezekiel 18:20
   8. If anything had had been lacking in the life of Jesus that would have corrupted His sinless atonement, God the Father would have left Him in the grave.
6. death has dominion
   1. 1 Corinthians 15:18
   2. If Jesus Christ is still in that grave, life is nothing but a cruel joke.
      1. Those who have died have perished and we will never be reunited with them.
      2. All we can look forward to is dying, being cremated or covered with dirt, letting greedy microbes eat away at us, and that’s it.
      3. Something as wonderful as a human life and as glorious as the bond between humans has no lasting meaning; all we can look forward to is dying and going back to the ground.
   3. Death does not have dominion! Christ is risen!
      1. Those that have fallen asleep in Christ have not perished. (I Thess. 4:14) He is alive.
      2. How great to know that there is a God who, in the form of man, the Lord Jesus Christ, grappled with the iron bars of death and is victorious.
7. the future is fearful
   1. 1 Corinthians 15:19
   2. A wise man once said, “If Jesus Christ is still in that grave, nothing really matters. But if Jesus Christ came out of that grave, nothing but that really matters.”
   3. Without the resurrection, we’re just poor, deluded fools and the future is fearful.
   4. Jesus Christ is the one who walked out of that grave, resurrected.
      1. He took the sting out of sin.
      2. He took the dread out of death.
      3. He took the gloom out of the grave.
      4. He has given us a hope that is steadfast and sure.
   5. All of us will eventually die, if Jesus doesn’t return first.
      1. You can know and be sure of where you are going when you die.
8. CONCLUSION
   1. Do you know where you are going?
   2. Do you know who you are in Christ?
   3. Have your sins been forgiven?
   4. Are you sure that Jesus Christ is in your heart?
      1. Preaching is profitable
      2. Faith is feasible
      3. The disciples are dependable
      4. Sin has been subdued
      5. Death has been defeated
      6. The future is fabulous
         1. We know where we are headed.
   5. The truth of the ages is that Jesus Christ came out of that grave.
   6. Jesus lives. The question is, do you?
   7. You may have existence, but you don’t have real life until you know the Lord Jesus Christ.
   8. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   9. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16