

Week 09
052/313

Transforming Daily
“... no resurrection of the dead ...”
1 Corinthians 15:12

In this text, Paul is arguing for the necessity of the resurrection as it relates to the gospel of salvation. The simple fact of his argument is that if Christ was resurrected from the dead as the gospel message teaches, then why were there some among the preached Word who said that there was no resurrection of the dead? The whole concept is fundamental to the doctrine of salvation and eternal life.

I had a professor who said, “Without the crucifixion of Christ, there is no salvation, and without His resurrection, there is no eternal life. Paul later concludes that because Jesus was raised from the dead we too can experience resurrection power. But if He wasn’t raised from the dead, how can He promise that the believer will be raised from the dead? The fact of the matter is that the former precludes the latter. If He was, He can, if He wasn’t, He can’t.

This doctrine makes all the difference in the world, or more importantly, beyond this world into eternal life in heaven. The Sadducees are the sect that are most traditionally associated with denying Christ resurrection. There is an old joke that says they didn’t believe in the resurrection that’s why they were “sadd u cee?” Historically the Pharisees and the Sadducees would argue incessantly over this doctrine. The Pharisees were legalists, but at least they believed in resurrection (not necessarily the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but resurrection in principle). The Sadducees did not. On one occasion, Paul even uses this difference of doctrinal opinion between the two sects to escape harm (Acts 23:10).

Humanly speaking, there is no doubt that the concept of bodily resurrection is hard to accept. However, it’s not a human concept but a divine act. As with Salvation, faith must be exercised in order to believe one’s body will one day be resurrected. Do you believe in the resurrection? Are you exercising faith in the power of God to resurrect the body as well as to save your soul? Or do you practice as the Sadducees saying that there is no resurrection of the dead?