

1 Corinthians 15:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Analysis

Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead (Εἰ δὲ Χριστὸς κηρύσσεται ὅτι ἐκ νεκρῶν ἐγήγερται)—Paul begins his logical argument. The perfect tense *egēgertai* (ἐγήγερται, "has been raised") indicates completed action with ongoing results. Christ's resurrection is the foundation of apostolic preaching (*kēryssō*, *κηρύσσω*, "to herald").

How say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? (πῶς λέγουσιν ἐν ὑμῖν τινες ὅτι ἀνάστασις νεκρῶν οὐκ ἔστιν;)—The word *anastasis* (ἀνάστασις) means "standing up again," physical bodily resurrection. Greek philosophical dualism, especially Platonism and Epicureanism, denied bodily resurrection as undesirable (Acts 17:32). Some Corinthians, influenced by this worldview, accepted Christ's unique resurrection but denied general resurrection—a logically incoherent position Paul demolishes.

Historical Context

Greek philosophy viewed the body as a prison (Plato's *Phaedo*: 'soma sēma'—'the body is a tomb'). Immortality of the soul, yes; resurrection of the body, absurd. Stoics and Epicureans at Athens mocked Paul when he mentioned resurrection (Acts 17:32). Corinthian believers, immersed in this culture, struggled to embrace bodily resurrection.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What modern worldviews parallel Greek dualism in devaluing physical embodiment?
2. Why is it logically inconsistent to affirm Christ's resurrection while denying general resurrection?
3. How does Greek philosophical disdain for the body contradict the biblical doctrine of creation and incarnation?

Interlinear Text

Εἰ δὲ Χριστὸς κηρύσσεται ὅτι ἐκ νεκρῶν ἐγήγερται
if Now Christ be preached that from of the dead he rose
G1487 G1161 G5547 G2784 G3754 G1537 G3498 G1453

πῶς λέγουσίν τινες ἐν ὑμῖν ὅτι ἀνάστασις νεκρῶν
how say some among you that resurrection of the dead
G4459 G3004 G5100 G1722 G5213 G3754 G386 G3498

οὐκ ἔστιν
no there is
G3756 G2076

Additional Cross-References

Acts 26:8 (Resurrection): Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

Acts 17:32 (Resurrection): And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

Acts 23:8 (Resurrection): For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

2 Timothy 2:18 (Resurrection): Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

2 Thessalonians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.