

Lecture 5 – The Resurrection of Christ

Outline

1. Nihilism as a worldview
 - A. Edgar Allen Poe’s poem *The Raven*
 - B. Conclusion: Total despair
2. Judeo-Christian worldview
 - A. 1st century no more naïve about death than today (people stayed dead then just as now)
 - B. 1 Corinthians 15—Paul’s if/then conditional logic
 - * If no resurrection, then Christ did not rise
 - * If Christ is not raised, then
 - our preaching and faith is useless (the cornerstone of Christian faith is “He is risen”)
 - we are false witnesses
 - those who have died are lost
 - * If all we have is this life, then we are most to be pitied
 - * If no resurrection, then we should “eat and drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die” (hedonism)
 - Kant: “If there is no life after death, then there is no basis for justice or ethics and life is meaningless”
 - Dostoevsky: “If there is no God, then all things are permissible, and life is just a cosmic joke”
 - Nietzsche: “Life *is* meaningless”
 - * Paul’s evidence
 - Christ was raised according to Scripture
 - 2 Pet. 1:16 (“eyewitnesses of His majesty”)
 - * Paul’s conclusion
 - 1 Cor. 15:58 (“your labor is not in vain in the Lord”)

Notes

Questions to Consider

1. What question(s) concerning the Resurrection would you ask any one of the eyewitnesses to the risen Lord Jesus?
2. In light of Jesus’ teaching about life after death, why should a believer cry over the passing of a Christian loved one?
3. How can a Christian deal with the fear of death?

Scriptural References

Matt. 28:5-9, Mark 12:24-27, 2 Cor. 5:1-8