

BELIEVE IN VAIN

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

In 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 we find Paul saying the following to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

"Moreover, brethren I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand by which also you are saved if you hold fast that word which I preached to you - unless you believed in vain"

Many Christians have been troubled about what this "believing in vain" means. We know from other scriptures that when you believe with your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and you confess Him as Lord, you are saved

Also, as it can be seen from this verse, the Corinthians had accepted the gospel that Paul preached to them. Therefore, they had believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and in his resurrection from the dead and accordingly they were saved.

What is this "believing in vain" then? 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that he was buried, and that he was raised the third day according to the Scriptures and that he was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that he was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that he was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all he was seen by me also..."

See the importance that Paul, is putting on the resurrection of Christ. He states specifically the eyewitnesses of the resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:11

"Therefore , whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed."

The Corinthians had believed what Paul and the others preached. But

1 Corinthians 15:12-17

"Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And IF Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 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. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain and you are still in your sins."

Only in one hypothetical case could someone believe in Jesus Christ and his believing be in vain. This would happen if Jesus Christ hadn't been raised from the dead. In that case your most honest believing would really not be able to save you. Without the resurrection of the Lord Jesus there would be no salvation. Without His resurrection, our believing would be in vain, empty, and futile. Look what else would have happened, if Christ had not risen:

It looks like taking the Lords name – our Messiah's name in vain is what the third Commandment is all about.

1 Corinthians 15:17-18

"And if Christ is not risen.....then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished."

If Christ was not risen, then all those believers that died believing in him they would perish.

1 Corinthians 15:20

"But now Christ is risen from the dead."

But now "HE IS RISEN". We are no longer in our sins. Those who died believing in Christ and putting their hope in His return they will not perish.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by man also came the

resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."

We must learn from this and make sure that the doctrine that we believe is actually in the Bible and not a piece of embroidery by some churches, otherwise we too will be worshipping God in vain.

Matthew 15:9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'