

## Six ways the bodily resurrection of Jesus changes our lives now

### 2. Christ's bodily resurrection means Christians live the best lives now

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Cor 15v17-19)

Do people pity our lives?

Paul says if Christ has not been raised then Christians are most to be pitied, because we are living our lives based on a lie. But if Christ has been raised then, by contrast, we of all people are most to be envied!

Really?

When we look around us at non-Christian friends who have 'enviable' lifestyles and yet don't care for God, and as we consider the persecuted Christian church across the globe it seems strange to suggest that Christians live the best life now, a life that is enviable.

But consider this. The best, fullest, most enviable human life ever lived was surely the life of Jesus Christ. Though he had no material possessions (something we tend in London to envy all too easily!) he enjoyed the best, fullest, most enviable life, for it was always lived out of a richness of relationship with his Father, dedicated to the good of others and so bringing maximum glory to God. That is the best life. It is the life that, deep down, we long to live. But our sin within tells us that we will be 'better off' putting ourselves in the centre, not God; protecting ourselves, not serving others, bringing maximum glory to ourselves (ie making ourselves look good, rather than making God look glorious).

So, today remember that Christ is the good shepherd who laid down his life for us and took it up again in order to give us 'life to the full' (John 10v10-17). That life to the full begins now, grows in richness as we grow in relationship with God, and will only get better when we see him face to face!

So, whatever hardships we face today, whatever temptations to envy the lifestyle of others, let us fix our eyes upon Jesus, the one who's life in this world was the best, fullest, most to be envied. Let's ask him to help us live the best life: a life in relationship with God, for the good of others and the glory of God.