INTRO: The Sadducees and the unconverted Greeks did not believe in a resurrection at all. There were others who believed the resurrection was already over -- that there would be no more. For Paul & the other inspired preachers of the first century, the resurrection of the dead was a major theme. First, the resurrection of Jesus -- then the future resurrection of all who have ever lived and died. They preached Christ, & they preached resurrection through Him.

I. JESUS’ RESURRECTION WAS A FACT, TESTIFIED TO BY NUMEROUS EYE-WITNESSES, vs. 5-8.

II. CHRIST’S RESURRECTION HAD BEEN FORETOLD BY THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS, vs. 4.

For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. (Psalm 16:10).

[Peter said] “David... is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet... he... spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ... (Acts 2:29-31)

And they made His grave with the wicked--But with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, & the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. (Isa. 53:9-10).

III. WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION, CHRISTIANITY WOULD BE AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY, vs. 17. Note consequences.

A. Preaching of the apostles would be empty, vs.14a.
B. The faith of Christians, based on that preaching would also be empty, vs. 14b.
C. The apostles were false witnesses, perjurers, vs. 15
D. All followers of Christ are still in their sins, vs. 17.
E. All Christians who have died have perished in their sins, vs. 18
F. Christians are the most pitiable of all humans, vs. 19.

IV. JESUS’ RESURRECTION IS THE FORECAST OF OUR OWN, vs. 20-22.

V. THE GENERAL RESURRECTION WHICH JESUS WILL EFFECT AT HIS COMING WILL BE THE COMPLETE & FINAL VICTORY OF HIS CAUSE. vs. 24-26.

CONCLUSION: READ vs. 54-58

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 19, 2001