

Resurrection Sunday 2020

- Paul is addressing here in 1st Corinthians an attack on the most basic and foundational belief of the Christian. **Is there a resurrection?** The Epicurean philosophy taught there was no resurrection, you exist and then cease to exist. They were the ones to coin the phrase eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die. This Greek philosophy had leached into the Christian community, leading to the question then why be a Christian. These Corinthians, believed in Christ and to some extent in His resurrection but does resurrection apply to them, which leads to the question does resurrection apply to us.

1Co 15:1 ¶ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,**

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures,

4 and that **He was buried**, and that **He rose again the third day** according to the Scriptures,

5 and that **He was seen by Cephas, (Peter)** then by the twelve.

6 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.

7 After that **He was seen by James**, then by all the apostles.

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

- Paul has made the first proof that the resurrection was witnessed, and he bases his authority to write these things in the fact that he has also witnessed the risen Christ.
- The doctrine of the resurrection of Christ is also strategic in that it is the first step in a series in the exaltation of Christ: (1) His resurrection; (2) His ascension to heaven and return to His preincarnate glory; (3) His exaltation in being seated at the right hand of the Father and the Father's throne; (4) His second coming to the earth in power and glory; (5) His occupying the throne of David as ruler of the millennial earth; (6) His exaltation as judge of all men at the great white throne; (7) His exaltation in the new heaven and the new earth.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

- **Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God,**

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

12 ¶ Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But **if there is no resurrection of the dead**, then Christ is not risen.

14 And **if Christ is not risen**, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--**if in fact the dead do not rise.**

16 For **if the dead do not rise**, then Christ is not risen.

17 And **if Christ is not risen**, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 **If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**

- **Ro 15:12,13** And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; (*Jesus*) And **He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles**, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." 13 ¶ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

20 ¶ **But now Christ is risen from the dead**, and has become **the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

21 For since **by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.**

22 For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ all shall be made alive.**

- **The Feast of Firstfruits** was observed on the day after the Sabbath following Passover (Lev 23:9-14) Significantly, Jesus rose from the dead on the exact day of the Feast of Firstfruits, the day after the Sabbath following the Passover. The resurrection of Jesus is also the **firstfruits** of our resurrection in the sense that He is our "entrance fee" to resurrection. Jesus paid our admission to the resurrection! John 19:30... "it is finished"

- Skip to verse 35

35 ¶ But someone will say, "**How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?**"

36 **Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.**

- **Joh 12:24** "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain--perhaps wheat or some other grain.

38 But **God gives it a body as He pleases**, and to each seed its own body.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of **flesh of men**, another **flesh of animals**, another **of fish**, and another **of birds**.

40 There are also **celestial bodies** and **terrestrial bodies**; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. **The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.**

43 It is **sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory**. It is **sown in weakness, it is raised in power**.

44 It is **sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body**. There is a **natural body, and there is a spiritual body**.

45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." **The last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving spirit**.

46 However, the **spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual**.

47 The **first man was of the earth**, made of dust; the **second Man is the Lord from heaven**.

48 **As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly**.

49 **And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man**.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does **corruption inherit incorruption**.

- **Ro 6:3-5** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life**. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

51 ¶ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "**Death is swallowed up in victory.**"

55 "**O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?**"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

57 **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

58 ¶ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be **steadfast, immovable, always abounding** in the work of the Lord, knowing that **your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

- Paul answers their question, yes we have a hope that we can stand upon, that Christ indeed was the first fruits from the dead and we will follow. In the end it all will be worth it.
- **1Jo 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
- **2Ti 1:12** For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, **for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.**