

From Sinners to Saints

1Corinthians 15:12-20

- Paul has just spoken of the reality of Jesus Christ resurrection, and how it wasn't just some make believe fable to help people believe in Him, but that there is tangible proof like over five hundred eye witnesses who saw Him physically after He hung on the cross, many of which are still living so you can talk with them, including himself.

V12-20

- **V12-14** we talked about the importance of content, communication, reception and proof, that Paul offered to his readers concerning Jesus Resurrection, now he is going to explain the consequences of not believing in a risen Christ.
- **1.** If Christ be not risen then the gospel message is empty and vain. This means its lifeless and therefore useless if Jesus doesn't rise from the grave, so we might as well live a Godless, fleshly, and me centered life because this is all we have right here on earth. You see why many refuse to believe in the resurrection, because that means they then must embrace the truth that their choices will have consequences.
- **V15-16 2.** if Christ is not risen then no one can rise and the message given by the eyewitnesses is a lie. Satan wants us to doubt the Word and then we doubt the entire message making ourselves vulnerable to his lies and not Jesus truth.
- **V17 3.** if Christ is not risen then my sins have not been forgiven, as they are not paid for. When people talk about belief in some man, or other religion, the first thing I ask them is, what happens to my sins? I know I am a sinner, and its bad, what are you going to do about them? They answer your good will outweigh your bad, I know that's not true, or their guru will absorb them, is he just a man like me, another lie, finally some just tell the truth and say they don't know, only Christianity deals with my sin.
- **V18-19 4.** if Christ is not risen then those who died before is in a state of nothing, the unsaved was right > **1:18** the message of the cross is foolishness, for all who have suffered and sacrificed did it all for a lie, and can only be pitied and not admired. Notice he only applies this principle to believers, for it's the Christians who are expected to sacrifice and endure in this pleasure driven world, trusting that a heavenly reward awaits us beyond this life we live.

- One of the more comforting things in life is to know that those whom we love whom we've lost that's a believer is not in a state of hopelessness but with The Lord > **2 Cor 5:8**- to be absent from the body is to be present with The Lord, there is an immediate transition for it is The Lord Himself who guides us from death to life **Ps 48:14**- for it is Him Who conquered death to give us life, through His resurrection.
- Charles Spurgeon said: "**if Jesus rose, then this gospel is what it professes to be, but if He rose not from the dead, then it is all deceit and delusion**". That's how important the resurrection is, it validates the hope that we will spend eternity in glory, so instead of being miserable we are joyous, knowing that it is true.
- **V20** Jesus is called "**The First fruits**" of those who have died, this is important because in the OT **Lev 23:9-14** the feast of the first fruits was observed on the day after the Sabbath following the Passover, Jesus also rose from the dead the day after Sabbath following Passover, which is the exact day of the feast of the first fruits.
- Also the feast of the first fruits was a bloodless grain offering, no atoning sacrifice was necessary because the Passover lamb had just been sacrificed. This lines up perfectly with the resurrection of Jesus, because of His sacrifice there is no longer a need for us to make atonement, having been our Passover Lamb, and His resurrection from the dead is proof that His sacrifice was acceptable to God.