

Empty: A Study of I Corinthians 15
April 15, 2018

Story of Wally and 18 empty eggs.

I Corinthians 15: 1-8 CSB

¹ Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand² and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.³ For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep.⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me.

Corinth

Paul remained there for 18 months. (Acts 18:11)

Corinth was a port city. The gospel could quickly be delivered by converts to many parts of the world.

The temple of Aphrodite with more than 1,000 prostitutes.
It had a large enough Jewish population to support at least 1 synagogue.

Writing to them after his departure, he covered several subjects that concerned him. Each of these subjects begins with "Now". (Go through the "Now" verses.)

Believed in vain (verse 2) in Greek is "eike" - i-kay - without purpose or careful thought.
Gospel is - victory over sin at the cross, victory over death at the empty tomb, and validation of the gospel by many witnesses.

I Corinthians 15:9-15 CSB

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, 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. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, so we proclaim and so you have believed.¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, "There is no resurrection of the dead"?¹³ If there is no resurrection of

the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith. ¹⁵ Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that he raised up Christ—whom he did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised.

The Corinthians were influenced by the Greek philosophies the believers did not view the resurrection as important as the crucifixion and many were influenced to doubt its validity. The Greeks believed that bodily resurrection was an impossibility. They believed in a spiritual resurrection. The body "soma" was a tomb "sema" for the soul and at death the soul was released to roam without restrictions.

Vain in verse 14 is different than the vain in verse 2. This vain is "kenon" and means "empty." The word is applied both to Paul's proclamation and to their faith. Empty preaching results in empty faith.

I Corinthians 15:19 CSB

¹⁹ If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

What good is the cross without the empty tomb? What good is victory over sin if we still cannot be with God forever?

When man first sinned by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God quickly removed him from the garden. It was not for punishment but for man's preservation.

God said, "he must not reach out, take of the tree of life, eat, and live forever." Genesis 3:22

The tree of life s for the life of the body. Man would live on with a sinful flesh that would prohibit him from ever having an intimate fellowship with God ever again.

Prayer