

1 Corinthians 15.1-8 - Sermon Notes - Easter 2022

THE EVENT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

1. THE ESSENCE OF THE GOSPEL

CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

- it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that the world is in a mess, and it isn't just a mess that has happened recently
- history is filled with events that only confirm that there is a problem that infects every time, place and person, and that problem is incurable
- there have been innumerable attempts to change the course of human history, and yet we wind up after thousands of years without any real change
 - there is still violence, hatred, greed, hunger, disease, oppression, pain, suffering, and a host of other things
- we have attempted through the centuries to "fix" the problem
 - we have used force and power to make people submit
 - we have pursued wealth and power
 - religions have been established to change the habits and practices of people
 - we have engaged in an endless pursuit of pleasure, happiness, and contentment
- the one sure evidence that the problem still persists and that we haven't really fixed anything is the fact that one out of every person born dies
- death is the great equalizer, and with all of our knowledge, skill, and repeated lessons from our ancestors, we have not been able to solve the problem
- the one place we have the answer is the Bible, and it is called sin
 - [Psalm 53:1](#) The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good.
 - [Romans 3:23](#) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - [Romans 6:23](#) For the wages of sin [is] death, but the gift of God [is] eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- that's why Solomon said in [Ecclesiastes 7:2](#) Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that [is] the end of all men; And the living will

take [it] to heart.

- from the beginning man has lived in rebellion to the God who created Him, and is separated from Him
- but from the beginning, God has planned and provided for a way for man to be freed from the penalty, power, and eventually, the presence of sin
- it started in the Garden with a lamb, and then throughout the Old Testament we see the picture of a blood sacrifice to cover, or atone for sin
- the ultimate plan was that God would send His son into the world
 - He would live a sinless, perfect life
 - He would die on the cross as the Lamb of God for the sins of the world
 - on the Day of Passover

CHRIST WAS BURIED

- not only did Jesus die, but was buried in a borrowed tomb
 - [Matthew 27:57-61](#) Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.
- not only buried, but guarded by Roman soldiers to make sure nothing happened to the body

CHRIST ROSE AGAIN ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

- here is what Easter is all about
- the One who died and was buried, now lives!
- [1 Corinthians 15:20](#) But now Christ is risen from the dead, [and] has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- during His life, and before His death, Jesus talked about the fact that He would rise from the dead
- to the religious liberals of the day Jesus gave 2 justifications from their Scriptures that He would rise again
 - [Mark 12:26-27](#) "But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the [burning] bush [passage], how God spoke to him, saying, 'I [am] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob' ? "He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken."

- [Matthew 12:40](#) "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- the Resurrection should not have surprised them, because it was something that the Old Testament saints anticipated
 - Paul in his defense before King Agrippa, knowing that Agrippa was "an expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews, asked a very pointed question - [Acts 26:8](#) "Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?
- the oldest book in the Bible - [Job 19:25-27](#) For I know [that] my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this [I know], That in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. [How] my heart yearns within me!

2. THE BASIS OF CHRISTIANITY AND HOPE OF ALL BELIEVERS

- so, you may be asking, what is the big deal? Why is it necessary to believe in a literal resurrection?
- there were many in the Corinthian church who were questioning the whole idea, as many do today
- myths the even Christians believe
 1. It doesn't really matter, Jesus was a great teacher
 2. It was just a legend that developed long after Jesus died
 3. Jesus secretly survived the crucifixion
- Here is what Paul says about why what we believe about the Resurrection matters
 - [1 Corinthians 15.12-19](#) - 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? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching [is] empty and your faith [is] also empty. 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. For if [the] dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.
- if you are still skeptical, let me give you something to think about
 1. The tomb is empty

2. the witness of the apostles and early Christians
- you can have forgiveness, freedom, and a second chance because of what Christ has done

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