

L141 | I Corinthians | Resurrection Advantage and Shame | I Cor. 15:29-34

I. Intro/Review:

- Resurrection Consequences
 1. Preaching vain
 2. False witnesses of God - God is a liar
 3. Faith vain - yet in your sins
 4. They...fallen asleep in Christ are perished
 5. Men most miserable
 - Suffering
- Resurrection is attached to so many things - it is the means by which "all things are made new"
 1. The resurrection of Christ - the event, the eyewitnesses, the gospel
 2. The resurrection of Christ - our faith, the preaching of it
 3. The resurrection of Christ - those dead, effect of your life (miserable)
 4. The resurrection of Christ - Adam, all rule, authority, and power - enemies, the end - God may be all in all
 5. The resurrection of Christ - the body of the resurrection, its incorruption, and change
 6. The resurrection of Christ - your labour

II. Preview:

- The resurrection of Christ - suffering

III. Sermon:

- The resurrection of Christ - suffering (INTRO)
 - Romans 5:3 - "glory in tribulations"
 - Romans 8:16-17 - "suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together."
 - Romans 8:18 - "the sufferings of this present time"
 - 1 Corinthians 4:8-9 - "apostles...appointed to death:"
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 - "sufferings of Christ abound in us..."
 - Acts 9:16 - "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."
 - 2 Corinthians 4:1-18
 - 2 Corinthians 12:8-10
 - Philippians 1:5-30
 - Philippians 3:8-11 - "the fellowship of His sufferings,"

**Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?
{1 Corinthians 15:29}**

1. "if the dead rise not at all?"

- Those "baptized for the dead" need not be "baptized for the dead" "if the dead rise not at all?"
- **"why are they then baptized for the dead?"**

2. "Else what shall they do"

- Options for "baptized for the dead"
 1. custom done in Corinth (water baptism for the dead)
 - Believers - Paul doesn't condemn it
 - Unbeliever - Paul doesn't condemn it
 - "baptized for the dead" - even unbelievers believe in a resurrection
 - EMPHASIS - "if the dead rise not at all?"
 2. "baptized for the dead" - Luke 23:56, Jn. 19:40
 - Two important steps precede the actual burial: a) the *Taharah* ("purification"); b) the funeral (called the *Levayah*).
 - The *Taharah* is a ritual cleansing process in which the body is cleaned and groomed, and water is ritually poured over it. In life, water is the source of all our nourishment; spiritually, too, water also has this unique property. At various stages in our lifetime (e.g., before marriage, after giving birth), we immerse in a *mikveh* to achieve ritual purity; so, too, is the body ritually purified in preparation for this next phase of its existence. With the *taharah* we acknowledge with dignity the life that resonated within this body and still leaves its trace on it —forever. After the purification, the deceased is dressed in special white clothes (called *tachrichim*), signifying purity and holiness.

From <https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/282505/jewish/The-Basics-of-the-Jewish-Funeral.htm>

- **"the dead"** - the "dead" here is describing a plurality of people - a group of people "the dead".
 - God is not the God of "the dead", but of "the living".
 - 1. Those physically dead
 - If this Jewish custom we are not so concerned with those that were justified or not but the focus is on this Jewish ritual
 - If it isn't the ritual - we might ask which dead?
 - Are they believers that are "dead" or unbelievers to help narrow down who this is and what this baptism is.
 - Verse 18 mentions them "which are fallen asleep in Christ"
 - Could be "the dead" then would not be those believers that are dead
 - 1 The. 4:16 - "the dead in Christ"
 - 2. Those alive but spiritual dead

- Matt. 8:22 - "...let the dead, bury their dead."
 - Eph. 5:14 - "awake...arise from the dead"
 - Dead with Christ - dead to sin?
 - Eph. 2:1, 5 - dead in trespasses, dead in sins?
 - Col. 2:13 - dead in your sins and uncircumcision of flesh?
- Context - (before) - In light of Christ reigning and destroying death and resurrecting those that are His at His coming
 - (after) - v30 - "And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?"
 - "baptized for the dead" is that connected with the jeopardy of one's life
- 3. "what shall they do?"**
- **"they"** - :11 - "whether it were I or they"
 - **"do"** - :11 - "so we preach"
 - :11 - "and so ye believed" - from dead to alive (quicken)
 - :19 - "of all men most miserable" - misery from preaching the gospel pointless if no resurrection from the dead
 - We may die for this - let's do something else
 - They won't be resurrected - why preach it
- **"which are baptized for the dead,"**
 - "appointed unto death" (1 Cor. 4)
 - "baptized" - identified, sanctified "for the dead"
 - Matt. 20:22-23
 - "baptize for the dead"
 - Into suffering through preaching unto death
 - Gal. 6:14, Acts 9, Rom. 10:12-21
 - Php. 1 - defence and confirmation of the gospel

**And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ
Jesus our Lord, I die daily.
{1 Corinthians 15:30-31}**

- If "baptized for the dead" doesn't mean that - that principle is now what Paul brings up.
- **"And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?"**
 - Contrast to "they"
- **"I protest by your rejoicing"**
 - The rejoicing of their salvation due to the resurrection
 - **"which I have in Christ Jesus"** - Paul's apostleship to them
 - 1 Cor. 4:8-16, 9:1-2
 - **"I die daily"**
 - 2 Corinthians 4

- 2 Corinthians 11

If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

{1 Corinthians 15:32}

- **"If after the manner of men"** - their suffering simply flesh and blood
 - 2 Cor. 10:1ff
 - Eph. 6:10ff
- **"I have fought with beasts at Ephesus"** - emphasis on suffering
- **"what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not?"** - if souls get saved yet he suffers and there is no resurrection why suffer
 - Miserable
 - Php. 4:1
 - 1 The. 2:19
- **"advantageth"** - profit
 - 1 Cor. 13 - give your body to be burned - need charity, but you need to preach
 - Souls saved - reward
- **"let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die."**
 - Pagan philosophy
 - 1 Cor. 6:13
 - Lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes, and pride of life

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

{1 Corinthians 15:33}

- **"Be not deceived"** - mislead, beguiled
- **"evil communications"**
 1. No resurrection from the dead
 2. "eat and drink; for to morrow we die."
 - Rom. 13 - works of darkness
 - 1 Cor. 6:13
- **"corrupt good manners."**
 - "corrupt" - change for the worse
 - True communications produce good manners

Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

{1 Corinthians 15:34}

- **"Awake to righteousness, and sin not;"**
 1. "awake" - to the true communications
 2. "to righteousness" - good manners based upon charity, truth, and resurrection
 3. "sin not" - Rom. 6, 8, Titus 2 - deny/live

- **"for some have not the knowledge of God:"**
 - They have this knowledge of God in Christ - they received the gospel, stand in it
 - KEEP IN MEMORY - AWAKE

IV. Conclusion:

- **"I speak this to your shame."**
 - Blame, reprobable
 - **"shame"** - A painful sensation excited by a consciousness of guilt, or of having done something which injures reputation
 - 2 Cor. 7