

- I) V20-22 INTRO: But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the Paul just gave 6 negatives that, **if true**, would divest the gospel of its power
- II) V13 This all related to the question: What if Jesus were not resurrected
V14 **First**: The preaching of the gospel would be futile
V14 **Second**: Trust in the gospel would be futile
V15-16 **Third**: Apostles would be liars
V17 **Fourth**: Believers would still be in their sins
V18 **Fifth**: The dead have perished
V19 **Sixth**: Christians should be pitied
HIS POINT
- III) V20 Christ **is** risen from the dead so believers need not be pitied
THE FACT IS
- IV) Since **Jesus is risen**, the resurrection of his disciples **must** also occur
Ro 6:5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His
THIS IS HIS POINT
- V) V20 (Jesus) has become the **first fruits** of those who have **fallen asleep**
FIRST: BRIEFLY
- VI) This is the third time he has referred to death as **sleep** (V6, 18)
THIS IS A COMMON WAY OF SPEAKING OF IT
- VII) Death being spoken of as sleep is found in both the OT and NT
Dan 12:2 And many of those who **sleep in the dust** of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt
Jn 11:11-14 He went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has **fallen asleep**; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead"
- VIII) Jesus has become what Paul calls **the first fruits** of those who have fallen asleep
WHAT ARE THE FIRST FRUITS
- IX) **First fruits** speak of a representative sample of the harvest
First fruits indicated there was a **full harvest** that would follow
Under the Law Jews could not harvest grain until a **firstfruits offering** was made
Lev 23:10-11 Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the **first grain** you harvest. He is to wave the sheaf before the Lord so it will be accepted on your behalf the priest is to wave it on the day after the sabbath

- I) Jesus' Resurrection was the **first fruits** of the resurrection harvest of **believers**
- II) Jesus in His *death* and *resurrection* made an **offering of Himself** on our behalf
Jesus is the first fruits offering, paving the way for the rest of the crop: Us
His resurrection was not an isolated event but foretold our own resurrection
KEY
- III) The resurrection that Paul is speaking about is **a permanent resurrection**
Scripture reports other resurrections, but they were not permanent
IN THE OT
- IV) There was the Widow of Zarephath's son who was brought back to life
1 Ki 17:21-22 Then (Elijah) stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!" The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived.
We have Elisha raising the son of a Shunammite woman (2 Ki 4:34-36)
- V) 2 Ki 13:20-21 Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, **he revived and stood on his feet.**
IN THE NT
- VI) Jesus raised three people from the dead
A widow of Nain's son: Lu 7:11-15
Jairus' daughter: Lu 8:54-55
Lazarus: Jn 11:44
- VII) When Jesus was resurrected, saints were also raised from the dead
Mt 27:52 speaks of saints that were resurrected
V52 The tombs were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.
These would be the firstfruits, taken up to heaven when Jesus ascended
- VIII) **FINALLY**
Tabitha (Dorcas) Ac 9:36-42
Eutychus Ac 20:7-12
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MT 27:52
- IX) All of these who were brought back to life **eventually died again**
Jesus was the first to be resurrected, and **to remain alive**

- I) V21 *For since* by man **came death** by Man also **came the resurrection** of the dead
All mankind descends from Adam and have Adam's sin nature resulting in death
Ro 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world *through one man*, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because *all sinned*

- II) **V21 By man** (Jesus) also came the resurrection of the dead
Jesus' death and resurrection brings life to **those who believe** in Him
Ro 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

- III) V22 For as in Adam **all die** even so in Christ **all shall be made alive**
Important: The word **all does** not include those who reject Jesus as their Savior
WHY?

- iV) Because resurrection life is only given to those who trust in Jesus
Jn 5:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.
Ro 10:9 if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved

- V) It is all centered on Jesus, **and His resurrection**

- VI) V23 But each one **in his own order** Christ the first fruits **afterwards** those who are
There is an order involved: Jesus first, then those who belong to Him
INTERESTINGLY

- VII) The bible speaks of two resurrections: of the Just, and of the Unjust
We can easily think of the resurrection in a general way, taking place at one time

- VIII) John revealed to us that there is a first, and a second resurrection
Scripture reveals various *stages* involved in this Harvest
Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in **the first resurrection**. The **second death** has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.
KEY

- IX) It *appears* that there are at least *three stages* in the first resurrection
First: The believers from Pentecost to the Rapture of the Church

- I) 1 Th. 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the **dead in Christ will** rise first.
- II) **Second: Tribulation saints**
Rev 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and** reigned with Christ a thousand years.
Third: OT saints who lived in faith, waiting for Messiah
Ps 17:15 As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.
- III) These would all be part of what is called the first resurrection
These are saved by grace and faith, prior, during, and after his incarnation
- IV) The second resurrection is the resurrection of condemnation
Dan. 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.
Jn 5:28-29 Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out—those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment
- V) This is the resurrection of judgment, of condemnation, or the second death
Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.
V15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire
- VI) V24 Then comes the end when He delivers the Kingdom to God the Father
This is after the 2nd Coming, the resurrection and establishing His Kingdom
All things return to the original order, and what they originally were
- VII) V25-26 For He must reign till **He has put all enemies under His feet**
His last act, after His 1000-year reign is yielding the redeemed world to His Father
Death is not finally abolished until after the millennium

- I) V27-28 For He has put all things under His feet
The Father is the exception because He gave Jesus rulership
Mt 28:18 Jesus...said "All authority in heaven and on earth *has been given to Me*
Jn 5:26-27 As the Father has life in himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself. And *He has given Him authority to judge* because He is the Son of Man.
KEY: JESUS IS THE SERVANT
- II) Throughout His incarnation until He presents the Kingdom to His Father
When His work *is completed*, He assumes His *former* place within the Trinity
Jesus will continue to reign, in Trinitarian glory
NOW WE ENCOUNTER SOMETHING INTERESTING
- III) V29 Otherwise what will they do who are baptized *for the dead* if the dead do not
Paul returns to the subject of baptism
- IV) Obviously he is speaking about something the Corinthian church is aware of
This is why he includes this practice in his *defense of the resurrection*
WHAT DOES HE MEAN
- V) Baptized for the dead? Various thoughts have been presented
Some believe Paul is referring to *Jesus* when he speaks of *the dead*
- Vi) Why get baptized in the name of a dead Savior? He's dead if He's not resurrected
- VII) Others *believe* Paul is speaking of receiving baptism *on behalf* of a dead person
They thought any benefits that came from baptism could be secured for the dead
- VIII) Chrysostom (347-407-Archbishop of Constantinople) wrote: After someone prepared for baptism, but not actually baptized was dead, they hid a living man under the bed of the deceased; then coming to the bed of the dead man they spoke to him, and asked whether he would receive baptism, and since he couldn't answer, the other replied on his behalf and so they baptized the 'living for the dead.'
- IX) Nowhere does the Bible ever say that anyone could receive baptism *by proxy*
Nobody stands in my place at baptism, promising that I will follow Jesus
- X) Baptism is not necessary for salvation but results from trusting Jesus
Ac 2:41 Those who gladly *received his word* were baptized: and the same day there were added to them about three thousand souls.
- XI) This has produced a practice based on a single obscure Scripture

- I) **THE SIMPLEST ANSWER**
Believers were being saved because of the witness of martyrs
If the dead don't rise, why is there such an impact because of their testimony
- II) V30 Why do we stand in jeopardy every hour (putting ourselves in such danger?)
Jesus' resurrection gave him an eternal framework enabling him to live in hope
Ro 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us
- III) V31 I affirm *by the boasting in you* which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord *I die daily*
Seeing fruit in Corinth strengthens me to continue my ministry
My life is disciplined in every area for one thing, to follow the Lord
QUESTION
- IV) V32 If in the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus what advantage
He was likely speaking in a figurative sense: Roman citizens were not in arenas
This likely speaks of struggles with opponents, Jews and Gentiles in Ephesus
- V) Why die daily to desires of the flesh, if you could just yield and be satisfied?
This to too many makes the most sense: Live for today
- VI) This kind of life is not understood by very many people, including Christians
The Christian life is a life of dying to the flesh
Lu 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.
- VII) V33 Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits
Bad *teachers* and bad *friendships* influence us adversely
- VIII) Bad teachers undermine our faith, by misrepresenting God and leading astray
Their bad teaching can result in stealing our joy and disqualifying our service
This is where the whole counsel of God is our safeguard
ALSO
- IX) Christians be wise in the company that we choose to keep
The fact is, we *will learn the ways* of those who do not follow the Lord
- X) Friendships can be healthy or unhealthy depending on who *influences us*
Christians who fellowship with the world learn their habits and world view
Because of this we are commanded to avoid anything that draws us away

- I) Jas 4:4 You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God.
- II) With this in mind we must be careful in our friendships
We need to define them clearly, and they should be centered on our mutual faith
Like Peter and John, or Paul and Timothy
- III) In the end, we will reap the fruit of our relationships
In matters of faith, be careful who you allow to influence you
Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap
FINALLY
- IV) V34 Awake to righteousness and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge
Guard yourself against bad company and bad sermons
This results in a lack of concern for the lost
It can also pollute the gospel and you will preach a false message
UNBELIEVABLY
- V) In your congregation, you actually have people who do not know the Lord
Why? You are not teaching the whole counsel of God
Of this, you should be ashamed