

Easter Service and The Lord's Supper

April 17, 2022

Scripture:

Selected Verses from 1 Corinthians 15

Introduction (Where Are We?)

If you stood before God, would you fall under His *judgment* or *forgiveness*?

You'll most likely answer this question in one, of three, ways...

- **"I've been too bad"** to experience God's forgiveness, so I'd face his judgment"
- **"I've been pretty good"**, so God understands and will forgive me"
- **"I deserve God's judgment, but God has been good"** through Jesus Christ"

There are only two responses if facing God...

John 3:36 (ESV) "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

- **Belief** in the death and resurrection of Christ for forgiveness of sin and eternal life
- **Rejection** of God's way for forgiveness and eternal life brings His wrath

There is no middle ground – you're either believing in Jesus Christ for forgiveness or reject His offer of forgiveness and remain under God's judgment.

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

Let's make sure we are thinking the same way concerning the Scriptures...

(adapted from 9Marks)

- God, Creator of all things, is perfect, holy, worthy of worship, and punishes sin
- People, created good, became sinful by nature. At birth, all people are alienated from God, hostile toward God, and under God's wrath

Romans 3:10 (ESV) as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; **11** no one understands; no one seeks for God."

Romans 5:12 (ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

- **Without intervention, we face God's judgment now and eternally**

Romans 6:23 (ESV) For the wages of sin is death...

Information (What You Need to Know):

Forgiveness can be known through the Gospel (good news).

1 Corinthians 15:1 (ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, of the **GOSPEL** [good news] I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

Message of the Gospel...

- **Death** – *Christ died for our sins* (death is the payment for sin)

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

- **Burial** – *He was buried*
- **Resurrection** – *He was raised on the third day*

Why does the resurrection of Christ matter?

- The resurrection of Christ and believers cannot be separated

1 Corinthians 15:13 (NLT) For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.

“If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then sin won the victory over Christ and therefore continues to be victorious over all men” – John MacArthur

- The resurrection of Christ gives a guarantee of eternal life

1 Corinthians 15:20 (NLT) But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. **21** So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. **22** Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. **23** But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

- ✓ Adam’s sin brought death; Christ’s resurrection brought hope (15:21)
- ✓ All die in Adam, but Christ makes us alive (15:22)
- ✓ Those who believe will follow in their own resurrection to eternal life (15:23)

Application (What They Need to Do)

It's fitting to conclude with the words, "...then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back."

Until Christ returns and resurrects us, we are given instructions on how to remember His death – through celebrating the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NLT) For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

The Lord's Supper is symbolic.

Jesus points their attention to two elements used in this ordinance.

- **Bread** is broken and symbolizes His body, which would be given for them
- **Wine** symbolizes His blood, which would be shed as payment for sin

Participating in the Lord's Supper helps us remember the significance of Jesus' death for sin.

Before taking the Lord's Supper, let's read Paul's words of caution.

1 Corinthians 11:28 (ESV) Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Join me in reading Jesus' words to His disciples at the final supper before His death.

Matthew 26:26 (NLT) As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body." *Nod to the people to take the bread and partake*

Let's also remember Jesus' blood which was shed for our sin.

Matthew 26:27 (NLT) And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, **28** for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many." *Nod to the people to take the juice and partake*

As we have remembered Jesus' death on the cross for our sin, let's close with a song.