

I Corinthians 15:1-34 – 13 February 2022

“Resurrection Power”

Introduction

*After dealing w/ divisions, disputes, marriage/family, liberty issues & order in the church, Paul completes his reminders to Corinth with the biggest subject of all

*Joke: “Baptist on a Bridge”

Once I saw this guy on a bridge about to jump.

I said, ‘Don’t do it!’ He said, ‘Nobody loves me.’

I said, ‘God loves you. Do you believe in God?’ He said, ‘Yes.’

I said, ‘Are you a Christian or a Jew?’ He said, ‘A Christian.’

I said, ‘Me, too! Protestant or Catholic?’ He said, ‘Protestant.’

I said, ‘Me, too! What denomination?’ He said, ‘Baptist.’

I said, ‘Me, too! Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?’ He said, ‘Northern Baptist.’

I said, ‘Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?’ He said, ‘Northern Conservative Baptist.’

I said, ‘Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region, or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?’ He said, ‘Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region.’

I said, ‘Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?’ He said, ‘Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912.’

I said, ‘Die, heretic!’ And I pushed him over.

*Sometimes Christians squabble about minor issues, but we all must agree on the resurrection of Jesus!

*See, the death of Jesus on the cross paid for our sins, & the resurrection of Jesus 3 days later proved it

***Today here's 4 important aspects of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**

#1 – The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is substantiated with great evidence (Vs 1-11)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Center of the Good News is the resurrection
2. It's preached, received, believed and we stand
3. Paul emphasizes the need for current belief
 - a. Does no good to have formerly believed something without believing it now
 - b. Are you standing in the Gospel now?

Read Vs 3-4

1. Paul didn't make this up, but received it from Jesus Himself – Road to Damascus and more
2. This was long forecasted in the OT Scriptures
 - a. Abraham offering Isaac (Gen 22)
 - b. Cleansing of Leprosy (Lev 14)
 - c. Read Psm 16:10 – “won't leave My soul in”
 - d. Isa 53:10 – “He shall prolong His days”

Read Vs 5-7

1. The 1sthand witness evidence abounds that Jesus raised Himself from the dead
 - a. Read Luk 1:1-4 – That you know certainty
 - b. There are 17 early non-Christian sources within 150 of Jesus that speak of Him
2. Gary Habermas – 12 Minimal Facts Approach
 - a. Only Jesus rising from dead best explains them

Read Vs 8-10

1. Paul understands the wickedness of his flesh & past life are not worthy of Christ Jesus
2. Read I Tim 1:12-14 – God enabled by grace

Read Vs 11

1. The minister is nothing
2. But the preaching of the gospel of the resurrection of Jesus is everything
3. Preaching is centered on the historical, verifiable resurrection of Jesus

#2 – The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is essential for our resurrection (Vs 12-18)

Read Vs 12-13

1. Some said Jesus rose, but He's the only One
2. There's direct connection between Jesus rising from dead & all believers rising into eternal life

Read Vs 14-16

1. Denying the resurrection of ALL believers means you also have to deny Christ's resurrection

Read Vs 17-18

1. Believing in Jesus becomes empty of value if He's not bringing eternal life to all that believe
2. The transferable power of Jesus to remove our sins is only obtainable thru death & resurrection
3. Entirety of Christianity is based in the objective, verifiable evidence that Jesus rose from the dead
4. God's life in us is what beats sin now, and beats death when we come to it!

#3 – The Resurrection of Jesus Christ brings a sure hope of eternal life (Vs 19-28)

Read Vs 19

1. If all Jesus gives us is good moral teachings for this life – then we still live in hopelessness

Read Vs 20

1. The resurrection is as a harvest (firstfruits, harvest and the gleanings)
2. Christ's R is proof that there's more R to come

Read Vs 21-22

1. Adam wasn't standing on millions of years of dead things
 - a. When God completed creation & Adam, He said "all things are good"
 - b. So not just human death, but all death began with Adam
2. Just as we live the results of our physical head Adam, we can live with the spiritual results of our spiritual Head Jesus

Read Vs 23

1. The harvest occurs at the Rapture when the dead in Christ rise, then we who are alive join them (Read I Thes 4:16-17) (also I Cor 15:50-58)

Read Vs 24-28

1. The purpose has always been to gather all things back unto God for joyous relationship
2. Right now many things have been granted limited rule & power like men, Satan & even death
 - a. Vs 25 – Satan reigns until 1,000 yrs
 - b. Vs 26 – Death will be even during 1,000 yrs
3. Christ came to make a way for all to come back under God's umbrella of protection, love and eternal life
 - a. Read Eph 1:10
 - b. Have you accepted Christ substitute death for you, making a way for you to come back under God's protection, love and life?

#4 – The Resurrection of Jesus Christ brings purpose for this life (Vs 29-34)

Read Vs 29

1. This is just a follow up line of reasoning that there IS a resurrection – using this pagan practice
2. Notice that “they” do this, not “we”, then Paul goes right back to ‘we’ and ‘us’ in the next verses
3. Point: Even the pagan Corinthians around them believe in resurrection
4. The idea the YOU can do anything to aid someone else’s salvation is ridiculous

Read Vs 30-32

1. Paul is willing to put his life on the line every single day
 - a. Vs 31 – “I assure you that just as I boast in you b/c you’re in Jesus, I also am willing to die daily”
2. Vs 32 – If there’s no resurrection then we should just live for the pleasures of this life, now

Read Vs 33-34

1. These Corinthians were associating with either Sadducees or Greek Philosophers that didn't believe in the resurrection - & it corrupted them
2. Read Eph 5:14 – This is the call to us!!!

Conclusion

So the resurrection of Jesus has power & worth

1. **It's been substantiated w/ great evidence**
 - a. We don't believe from blind faith
 - b. We believe b/c there's great evidence a Man came back from the dead
2. **It's essential for our resurrection**
 - a. Jesus' resurrected life is made to be transferable to us
3. **It brings sure hope of eternal life**
 - a. Once 1st fruits are picked, harvest is assured
4. **It brings purpose for this life now**
 - a. What we do has consequences on the world to come – live for Jesus & be rewarded!!