1 Corinthians 15

The resurrection chapter. Some in Corinth were questioning the resurrection. Did it happen? How do we know it happened? How will it happen? Paul presents 3 perspectives.

1. The resurrection is an established fact.

2. The resurrection is a mater of necessity concerning the gospel.

3. Resurrection is a matter of victory.

I. The established fact

Note: saved- present tense-So What? This is a matter of fact, an existing reality, not simply a historic event.

V2 believed-aorist tense- belief that took place at a point in the past. This is an enduring belief often called faith.

V3-4 The full gospel. If any part of this is left out it is not a saving gospel.

Christ died-This was a planned, historic reality. It was redemptive and vicarious, note according to the scripture- see Ps. 22, Isa.50:6, 52:14, 53.

Christ was buried Ps 16:10

Christ rose- The verb here is passive, He was raised on the 3rd day. The resurrection was divine approval of His life and death.

Evidence-1 Co. 5-12. The number of witnesses should mean that the resurrection is unquestioned. In most countries death penalty can be given in court with 1 eyewitness, many critical documents require 3 witnesses or less. Over 500 saw the resurrected Christ over a 30-day period.

II. The resurrection is necessary for the gospel.

V12-19 No resurrection equals all ministry is useless, no salvation, all who preach the gospel are liars, no payment for sins, death is final, no hope all miserable.

V20-28 Christ is alive we are the “first fruits.” First fruits were an acceptable offering to God under the law.

The resurrection is a part of the ongoing victory of Christ. His final enemy to be destroyed will be death.

V29-34 Arguments for the resurrection

V29 The baptism for the dead- Notice Paul does not define exactly what this practice is. Some in Corinth seemed to have practiced it.

What they called “vicarious” baptism. This was done for a believer who died before baptism.

a. Context here is resurrection, not baptism for the dead.

b. If the dead don’t rise, as some taught in Corinth, why do it? See v18.

v30- 32 Martyrdom would be useless and foolish if there is no resurrection.

V33-34 Motivation to personal holiness- what I believe about the resurrection should influence the way I live today.

V35-49 The nature of the natural body’s resurrection and description of the need for a spiritual body.

V 50-58 The change for believers living at the time of the rapture.

V51 The rapture is a mystery- this is a truth that was previously unknown but is now being revealed.

V52-the process believers are changed.

Moment-*atomos,* a period of time so small it can’t be divided.

Twinkling-*hrepay* to move an eye.

V53 The change from mortal, corruptible to immortal and incorruptible.

V54-57 Christ resurrection brings victory to believers.

V58 The resurrection is the believer’s foundation and focus.