

Easter 2018

4/1/18

1 Corinthians 15:1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

1. "in which also you stand "
 - a. Perfect, active, indicative – there standing before God was fine
 - b. They are real believers

V.2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

1. "**if** you hold fast the word which I preached to you"
 - a. Our translation would be better for us – "**because**" instead of "if"
 - i. Their actions **showed** the results of being **saved**

V.2 "...because" you hold fast the word..."

2. "unless you believed in vain"
 - a. **Unless the resurrection wasn't true**

V.3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures,

V.4 and that He was **buried**, and that He was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1. "Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures...was **buried...raised** on the third day"
 - a. That is the Gospel!
 - b. Must be – "**according to Scripture**"
 - c. The O.T. is full of predictions of how the Savior would: come, die, rise again
 - i. **Gen.22; Ps.16:8-11; Ps.22; Isa.53; Jonah 1:17; 2:10; Zech.12:10**

V.5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

V.6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

V.7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

V.8 and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

1. "He appeared to **Cephas**^(Peter), then to **the twelve...500** at one time...**James...all apostles...Paul**"
 - a. No one can honestly look into the resurrection & deny its truth

V.9 (NP)

V.9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

V.10 But by the **grace** of God **I am what I am**, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

V.11 Whether then, it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

1. "so we preach and so you believed"
 - a. Here in lies the truth about salvation
 - b. They had heard the message of Christ: death, burial, resurrection & **believed it!**
 - i. That is salvation!

V.12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1. "how do some...say that there is no resurrection of the dead"
 - a. To the Greek – there was no physical resurrection
 - i. Greeks viewed the physical body in a bad light
 - ii. Their **upbringing influence understanding** of Bible
 - iii. We're not going into who they were
 - iv. **Our topic** is the **resurrection** itself – **V.13**

V.13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

V.14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

V.15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

V.16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

V.17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

V.18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

V.19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

1. "**if there is no resurrection** of the dead" ? (**V.13**)
 - a. #1. Then "Christ has been raised" **V.13**
 - b. #2. Our preaching is a waste of time **V.14**
 - c. #3. We have lied about God – b/c we said He raised Christ **V.15**
 - d. #4. Our faith is worthless **V.17**

- e. #5. There is no forgiveness for our sins (still guilty) **V.17**
- f. #6. All those who died trusting in Christ have perished! **V.18**
- g. #7. Christ has nothing to offer us **V.19**
- h. #8. We should be pitied for wasting our time on Christ **V.19**

V.20 **But**^(conjunction of contrast) now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

V.21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

V.22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.

1. "But...Christ **has been raised** from the dead" **V.20**
 - a. His resurrection is our **guarantee (first fruits)** that we will be raised too **V.20**
2. "since by a man^(Adam) came death" **V.21**
 - a. **Death** is a **foreign agent** to mankind
 - b. We were **not** created to die
 - c. Sin implanted a **pathogen**^(death) into man (Adam & Eve)
 - i. Notice that **death** is **spoken of** as a **separate entity**
 - d. **But** you **don't have to sin to die** – just need death infection
 - e. Babies die that haven't sinned – why?

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

V.3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

- a. His **image** was as **a sinner**
- b. All **related to** Adam were **sinner**s

3. "so also in Christ all shall be made alive" **V.22**
 - a. **All related** to Adam **died** – **all related** to Christ **made alive**
 - b. It **isn't** what you **do** that gives you eternal life – it's who you are!

V.23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

V.24 then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

V.25 (NP)

V.25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

V.26 **The last enemy that will be abolished is death.**

1. "But each in his own order" **V.23**

a. All believers are **not** all resurrected at same time

i. The 1st resurrection has **3 stages**: #1. **Christ**; #2. **rapture**; #3. **2nd coming** (Tribulation saints & O.T Jews)

b. Christ was **first** to be **resurrected** (not resuscitated) **V.23**

i. There is a reason for this

Colossians 1:18 He^(Christ) is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, **the first-born from the dead**; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.

2. "after that those who are Christ's at His coming"

a. "at His coming" (παρουσία) Parousia = **appearing**

b. His appearing is in **2 stages**

i. **Rapture** – Church

ii. **2nd coming** – tribulation saints

V.34 *Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning*; for some have no knowledge of God. *I speak this to your shame.*

1. "Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning"

a. When we realize the grandeur our future – **it is life altering**

b. **No believer is the same** when they **really see** their future

c. It should cause us to **fix our minds** on things above –

d. Most believers **don't** spend enough time **meditating** on God's Word

e. He says believers should be **ashamed wrapped up in the world**

V.34 "...some have **no knowledge**. I speak this **to your shame**"

V.35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?"

V.36 *You fool!* That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;

1. "You fool"

a. He is speaking the person who ask question in **V.35**

b. **V.35** is ask in a way as to say – **that the resurrection can't be understood**

V.37 (NP)

V.37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

V.38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

1. "God gives it a body just as He wished"
 - a. **Our** resurrected bodies **won't be** like earthly bodies
 - b. You **don't plant** a kernel of corn to produce a kernel of corn –
 - c. You **don't plant** a bean to get a **bean**
 - d. God **decides** the body you will have

V.39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.

V.40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another.

V.41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. (God has a huge imagination)

1. "All flesh is not the same flesh"
 - a. Here is a simple principle – all flesh isn't the same
 - i. Flesh of men, beast, birds, fish – **not** the same
 - ii. Rules out evolution
 - b. **Here is the exciting part!**
 - i. He uses the heavenly bodies to make a point **V.40-41**
 - ii. **No two planets or stars are alike** –
 - iii. How many stars are there? **BILLION!** In Milky Way alone
 - c. **No two people** will be the **same** in heaven
 - d. **God has a huge imagination** –
 - e. How big is your imagination?
 - i. **Eternity is bigger! B/c God is bigger!**

V.42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;

V.43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

V.44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

1. "So also is the resurrection of the dead" **V.42**
 - a. The resurrected body is in **sharp contrast** w/ our current body:

- i. #1. It is sown in corruption – raised incorruption **V.42**
 - ii. #2. It is sown in dishonor & humiliation raised in glory **V.43**
 - iii. #3. It is sown in weakness – raised a powerful body **V.43**
 - iv. #4. It is sown a natural body – raised spiritual body **V.44**
- b. Being **resurrected with** an **incorruptible body** is the final stage of our salvation

Romans 8:23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, **the redemption of our body.**

V.45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

V.46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

V.47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

V.48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

V.49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

1. "as we...borne...image of the earthy, we shall...bear...image of...heavenly"
 - a. Paul comes back to earlier topic about the resurrected body
 - i. **We** were of earth w/ earthly bodies
 - ii. **We will be** of heaven w/ heavenly bodies
 - iii. But they are **not exclusive** of each other
 - iv. There will be an **element** of our earthly bodies thru eternity

V.50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; **nor does the perishable** inherit the imperishable.

1. "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God"
 - a. The person that says I'll take my chances w/out Christ, **I ask this**
 - i. **Can you change your body** so as to make it **heavenly** for the next life?
 - ii. If you **can't glorify** yourself – let Christ do it for you!

V.51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

V.52 (NP)

V.52 in a **moment**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we** shall be changed.

V.53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

V.54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, **then** will come about the saying that is written, "**DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**

1. "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep"
 - a. The rapture is coming!
 - b. At the trumpet sound – when you hear your name called – GONE!
 - c. **Death** will no longer have any hold on us

V.55 " O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

V.56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

V.57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. "**thanks be to God**, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"
 - a. This is why our hearts should be always overflowing w/ joy!!

V.58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

1. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be:"
 - a. Be steadfast – **anchored** – **offensive** – you stay the course
 - b. Immovable – this is **defensive** stance – allow **nothing to move you**
 - c. Always abounding in the work of the Lord – overflowing
 - d. Knowing your toil is **not** in vain – (Perfect tense) a settled matter in your mind – you know its so

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, **according to** what he has done, whether good or bad.

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man **according to** what he has done.