

The Hope of the Resurrection

I Corinthians 15:1-19

10/21/01

Intro

- The men's retreat
- Pray for President and our nation.

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The church in Corinth was in trouble. There was division; there were factions, there were those who felt spiritually superior because they had more outward spiritual gifts. Yet at the same time there was an amazing amount of immorality.

There were also some in Corinth who did not believe in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. This was probable due to a remnant of a teaching from the Sadducees of Jesus' day. Jesus had to deal with them and Paul is not dealing with that teaching as well.

What's interesting is that today there is a lot of attention being given to what Islam teaches and Islam teaches that not only was Jesus not resurrected, he was never crucified! They believe that God took Jesus up and allowed someone else to die in his place. (This is the opposite of the Christian doctrine that Christ died in our place.)

To Paul, this is a pivotal and key doctrine. To be wrong on this point is to miss the most important part of the Good News!!

These verses give us insight into the resurrection of Jesus Christ and show us the reason why it is so important.

I. Christ died according to the scriptures.

A. This is important because some say that Paul invented the whole resurrection message.

- They try to make a distinction between Paul's Christianity and Jewish Christianity.

Vs 2-3

B. These things happened according to the scriptures.

- Ps 22 – *a description of the suffering of the cross.*
- Isaiah 52 and 53 – *suffering for our sins.*
- Jonah (the only sign given) – *three days in the belly of the earth.*
- Gen 22 – Abraham and Isaac (*God will provide Himself a lamb*)
(*We will come back to you.*)

Vs 5-8

C. There were many who were eyewitnesses to Christ resurrected.

- Peter, then the twelve.
- Then to more than 500 brothers at one time.
- Then to James, then to all the disciples.
- Lastly, to Paul (he thought he was least of the disciples).

Vs 1-3

D. This is of first importance.

- “Good news” is always a priority.
- ***Salvation has a three-fold impact.***
- At the point at which we believed (justification), *saved from the penalty of sin.*
- At this present hour (sanctification), *saved from the power of sin.*
- At a day in the future (glorification), *saved from the presence of sin.*

II. The place of grace in our faith.

A. This is important because Islam has no such concept as grace.

B. Paul understood grace more than most.

- He grieved deeply over how he had treated those in the church.
- He had a key persecutor of the church.

C. Grace then brings forth good works.

- Some don't understand the importance of works in our faith.
- God is the initiator, I am the responder.

- Many have this reversed in their thinking – that they initiate and God responds.
- “He who is forgiven much; loves much.”

Illus- remember the prostitute that came in to where Jesus was eating and anointing his feet with her tears and wipe them with her hair.

III. Our Hope is not for this life only.

Vs 12-14

A. If Christ is not raised from the dead, then our faith is in vain.

Vs 17

- Our faith would be worthless.
- We would still be in our sins.

Vs 19

B. If our hope is for this life only, then we are of all men to be pitied.

- Because our hope would have been false.

C But our hope is eternal!!

Conclusion

The resurrection is not just an historical event, but a present reality, and a present hope. Are we being changed by it?