

The Gospel Teaching on Resurrection I Corinthians 15

The doctrine of Christ's resurrection according to the Scriptures is The Gospel

When darkness falls upon the day of life, when death has come, and when people gather around a grave, then it is that they turn to this immortal chapter, where are recorded the blessed and highest hope, the Christian gospel's promise of eternal life. Light from this chapter dispels the darkness surrounding the grave; its message reassures the sorrowful, redefines the meaning of life itself and writes upon the tomb the blessed words, "Asleep in Jesus." It speaks at every Christian's funeral.

I Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

It is rather tragic that the Corinthians required that someone remind them of the fundamental facts of the Christian gospel, at a time so soon after they had heard it, obeyed it, and were enjoying the blessings of salvation derived from it.

I Corinthians 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

I Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

What does he mean "according to the scriptures? What scriptures foretold it? There are over 300 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Christ.

Psalms 2:6-8 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou [*art*] my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give [*thee*] the heathen [*for*] thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth [*for*] thy possession

Psalms 22:1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? [*why art thou so*] far from helping me, [*and from*] the words of my roaring?

Psalms 22:16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

Psalm 22:18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Isaiah 53:8-10 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither [was any] deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put [him] to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see [his] seed, he shall prolong [his] days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Eyewitnesses attested it. The resurrected Christ, seen by over by the Apostles and over 500 eye witnesses

I Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

I Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

I Corinthians 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

Paul's Apostleship

I Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

I Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

I Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace [which was bestowed] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

I Corinthians 15:11 Therefore whether [it were] I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

All the Apostles preached & believed the same things,

O Lord if only we could say and do the same thing today we could conquer the world as Jesus said cf:

John 17:20-21 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father,

[art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

I Corinthians 1:10-13 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [*that*] there be no divisions among you; but [*that*] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them [*which are of the house*] of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. 13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

There is a Judaizing false teacher at Corinth

I Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Paul takes a negative argument,

I Corinthians 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

I Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then [*is*] our preaching vain, and your faith [*is*] also vain.

It would follow that preaching was useless and It would mean our faith was worthless.

I Corinthians 15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

It would mean that the apostles who all gave their lives testifying to the fact of the resurrection were liars and fools to die for their lies.

I Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

I Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith [*is*] vain; ye are yet in your sins.

It would deny all possibility of salvation from sin.

I Corinthians 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

It would mean that the righteous dead were lost

I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

It would mean that sufferings and privations of the apostles were vain and useless.

I Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead,[*and*] become the first fruits of them that slept.

“ ... But now is Christ risen from the dead ...” Paul could not wait until the conclusion of his argument, but dogmatically declared the truth of the resurrection.

“... fruits of them that slept ...” First fruits are the proof of a coming great harvest, The following is an illustration of the reasonableness of the doctrine of the resurrection introduced parenthetically in V:20-28 as Paul often does in his writings.

Christ the second Adam, as death came to all through one person (Adam), it is fitting that the resurrection should come through one

I Corinthians 15:21 For since by man [*came*] death, by man [*came*] also the resurrection of the dead.

I Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

There is order in the resurrection and now the order of the resurrection is given

I Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming

At the end of time, Christ will deliver up the Kingdom, the people of Christ or the Church of Christ, to God,

I Corinthians 15:24 Then [*cometh*] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power

Christ reigns as a King now, cf:

Psalm 110:1 & 4 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. 4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou [art] a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Acts 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

Hebrews 1:1-9 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. 7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8 But unto the Son [he saith], Thy throne, O God, [is] for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness [is] the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, [even] thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Christ rules over all things

I Corinthians 15:27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under [him, it is] manifest that He is excepted, which did put all things under him.

I Corinthians 15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Baptized for the dead is one of the hardest verses in the New Testament to understand. In my opinion, Paul is saying that they are being baptized knowing full well that it will lead to their martyrdom & death. Note the context.

I Corinthians 15:29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead.

I Corinthians 15:30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?

II Corinthians 11:23-28 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I [*am*] more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty [*stripes*] save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 [*in*] journeyings often, [*in*] perils of waters, [*in*] perils of robbers, [*in*] perils by [*mine own*] countrymen, [*in*] perils by the heathen, [*in*] perils in the city, [*in*] perils in the wilderness, [*in*] perils in the sea, [*in*] perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

awake to righteousness,

I Corinthians 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily,

I Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

It would mean that sufferings and privations of the apostles were vain and useless.

I Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

I Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak [*this*] to your shame.

Paul now states the obvious question of the false teacher in Corinth,

I Corinthians 15:35 But some [*man*] will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

“But some [*man*] will say ...” This Judaizing Sadducee false teacher will say to you ... Regarding the nature of the bodies that shall be raised up

I Corinthians 15:36 [*Thou*] fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

Paul will answer by similitude. First It is like grain that is planted.

I Corinthians 15:36 [*Thou*] fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

I Corinthians 15:37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other [*grain*]:

I Corinthians 15:38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

he answers the same question by application

I Corinthians 15:39 All flesh [*is*] not the same flesh: but [*there is*] one [*kind of*] flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, [*and*] another of birds.

It is like different kinds of flesh

I Corinthians 15:40 [*There are*] also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial [*is*] one, and the [*glory*] of the terrestrial [*is*] another.

It is like different kinds of celestial bodies

I Corinthians 15:41 [*There is*] one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for [*one*] star differeth from [*another*] star in glory.

Greater & different degrees of splendor in the Resurrection,

I Corinthians 15:42 So also [*is*] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

It is described as Incorruptible

I Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

It is described as glorious and powerful.

I Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

It is described as spiritual.

Christ the second Adam,

I Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [*was made*] a quickening spirit.

It is like the risen body of Christ

I Corinthians 15:46 Howbeit that [*was*] not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

I Corinthians 15:47 The first man [*is*] of the earth, earthy: the second man [*is*] the Lord from heaven.

I Corinthians 15:48 As [*is*] the earthy, such [*are*] they also that are earthy: and as [*is*] the heavenly, such [*are*] they also that are heavenly.

I Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Romans 5:14-21 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 15 But not as the offence, so also [*is*] the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, [*which is*] by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16 And not as [*it was*] by one that sinned, [*so is*] the gift: for the judgment [*was*] by one to condemnation, but the free gift [*is*] of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one [*judgment came*] upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [*the free gift came*] upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

The second coming of Christ in Power & Glory is one event. What shall become of those who remain alive at the Second Advent? The answer is that they shall be changed in an instant, and thus participate in the resurrection just like others.

I Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

I Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [*must*] put on immortality.

I Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where [*is*] thy sting? O grave, where [*is*] thy victory?⁶

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death [*is*] sin; and the strength of sin [*is*] the law.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks [*be*] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The practical application of the doctrine of the resurrection? It places the Christian in a position of strength, the great victory already having been won.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the work of the Lord,

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

All of the Christian's energies should be devoted fully to the service of God, being assured that his labor is not in vain "in the work of the Lord"

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, Clarkes Commentary, Coffman's Commentary