

## The Resurrection Makes All the Difference (1 Corinthians 15:1-34)

### 1. **The Essence of Christianity: The Gospel**

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

*The Gospel is the good news of how we can be saved:*

- *Jesus died for our sins*
- *Jesus was buried*
- *Jesus rose again the third day*

### 2. **The Large Number of Witnesses**

<sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

### 3. **The Final Witness: An Active Enemy of Jesus**

Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

### 4. **The Result: Corinthians Believed in Jesus**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

### 5. **The Logic of No Resurrection: Regarding Our Efforts**

<sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. <sup>15</sup> Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up-- if in fact the dead do not rise.

*The belief of no resurrection... (for anyone): If there is no resurrection...*

- *Christ is not risen*
- *Our preaching is empty*
- *Our belief is empty*
- *We are false witnesses*

### 6. **The Logic of No Resurrection: Regarding Our End**

<sup>16</sup> For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! <sup>18</sup> Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

*If [the] dead do not rise...*

- *Christ is not risen*
- *Our belief is futile*
- *We are still in our sins*
- *All believers who have died are dead*
- *We are the world's most pitiable people*

### 7. **The Truth: Christ Is Risen from the Dead**

<sup>20</sup> But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

- *Jesus HAS BEEN RISEN*
- *Jesus is the firstfruits of those who died*
- *Death came by man (Adam)*
- *Resurrection came by Man (Jesus)*
- *Through Adam all die*
- *Through Jesus all shall be made alive*

### 8. **The Timing: Christ, then Christ's, then Judgment**

<sup>23</sup> But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. <sup>24</sup> Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death. <sup>27</sup> For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under *Him*," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. <sup>28</sup> Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

- *Christ the firstfruits*
- *Afterward, those who are Christ's at His coming*
- *Then, Jesus reigns in the kingdom*
- *When Jesus puts an end to all authority & power*
- *Till all enemies are subdued*
- *Last enemy to be destroyed: Death*
- *When all things are subjected, the Son will subject Himself to God the Father.*

### 9. **What's the Point? (One or the Other – Not Some of Both Worlds)**

<sup>29</sup> Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? <sup>30</sup> And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? <sup>31</sup> I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. <sup>32</sup> If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage *is it* to me? If *the* dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

- *What is the point of those identifying with the ranks of the believers that have died?*
- *What is the point of our suffering and danger? I die daily. I have fought with beasts.*
- *If the dead do not rise: Party now – death is coming.*

### 10. **Three Commands**

<sup>33</sup> Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." <sup>34</sup> Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

1. *Do not be allowing yourselves to be lead astray: Bad turns good into bad.*
2. *Righteously awake: Come to your senses about right (and wrong).*
3. *Do not be sinning – The eternity of others is at stake.*