

THE GOSPEL OF THE RESURRECTION

1 CORINTHIANS 15 (Part 1)

Introduction

- 1) **1 Corinthians 15** – Paul wrote concerning the *resurrection of the dead*
- 2) Some brethren in Corinth were saying, “There is no resurrection of the dead” (v. 12)
 - a) In opposition to the Lord’s teaching (John 5:28-29; 6:40; Matt. 20:19)
 - b) False views on the resurrection were an early problem (2 Tim. 2:17-18)
- 3) Many today deny a future literal bodily resurrection
 - a) Realized Eschatology (AD 70 Doctrine)
 - b) Hinduism, Buddhism
 - c) Paganism
 - d) Secular Humanism
 - e) Progressive liberal “Christianity”
- 4) Paul declares the gospel of the resurrection and its inseparable connection to our own hope

I) The Facts of the Gospel (vv. 1-4)

- A) The apostles preached the gospel and it was received by those who believed
 - 1) Our faith stands in the truth of the gospel (cf. Col. 1:5; Jn. 20:29-31)
 - 2) We are saved by this truth *if* we hold fast the word preached (Rom. 10:9)
- B) Paul delivered what he had received
 - 1) The truth of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ
 - 2) “According to the Scriptures” – prophesied (Psa. 22; Isa. 53; Psa. 16; etc)

II) Evidence of Witnesses (vv. 5-11)

- A) There was abundant eyewitness testimony of the risen Christ
 - 1) Numerous witnesses on numerous occasions – reliable and verifiable
 - a) Cephas [Peter]
 - b) The Twelve
 - c) Over five hundred brethren at once (most were still alive)
 - d) James
 - e) All the apostles (cf. Acts 1:3)
 - f) Saul of Tarsus
- B) Impossible to deceive so many witnesses, some of whom were despondent and very skeptical of others’ testimony; one was even an avowed and determined enemy of the gospel and the church (cf. Mk. 16:9-11; Lk. 24:11; Jn. 20:25; Acts 26:8ff)

III) The Hopelessness of Error (vv. 12-19)

- A) The consequences *if* there is no resurrection from the dead:
 - 1) ***Christ is not risen*** – still dead in grave, no King, no High Priest, no Savior
 - 2) ***Preaching of gospel is in vain*** – gospel has no power to save anyone
 - 3) ***Our faith is in vain*** – no reason to believe in a living Savior
 - 4) ***Witnesses are false witnesses*** – sincerely mistaken at best, scheming liars at worst
 - 5) ***We are still in our sins*** – lost with no hope and destined to face eternal condemnation
 - 6) ***Dead in Christ have perished*** – faithful loved ones are gone forever
 - 7) ***Our vain hope is to be pitied*** – living under a fanciful delusion only to be disappointed

Conclusion

The next words from Paul are “But now Christ is risen from the dead” (v. 20; cf. Lk. 24:5-6). Those who live for Christ are not left without hope. Come to the risen Christ, obey Him, and find salvation and eternal life! Outside of Christ there is no hope.