THE GOSPEL OF THE RESURRECTION 1 CORINTHIANS 15 (Part 2)

Introduction

- 1) 1 Corinthians 15 Paul wrote concerning the resurrection of the dead
- 2) Paul declares the gospel of the resurrection and its inseparable connection to our own hope
- 3) Some brethren in Corinth were saying, "There is no resurrection of the dead" (v. 12)
- 4) In answer, Paul declared the gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, the evidence of those who saw Him alive, and the terrible consequences if Christ is not risen (vv. 1-19)
- 5) Paul continues by showing how the resurrection of Jesus affirms the hope of our resurrection (vv. 20-58)

I) The Hope of Truth (vv. 20-28)

- A) "But NOW Christ IS risen from the dead" (v. 20a)
 - 1) By Adam came death all die (v. 21; Gen. 3:19)
 - 2) By Christ came the resurrection of the dead all made alive (v. 22; Jn. 5: 28-29; Acts 24:15)
 - 3) Christ's resurrection is the "firstfruits" (first of the harvest to eternal life) afterward those who are Christ's at His [second] coming (vv. 20b, 23; Jn. 11:25; 1 Thess. 4:16)
 - a) Those who are not Christ's cast into the "second death" (Rev. 20:15; 21:8)
 - 4) "Then comes the end" when the kingdom is delivered to the Father and the final enemy, death, is destroyed (vv. 24-28)

II) Danger of Denying the Resurrection (vv. 29-34)

- A) Denying the resurrection removes any reason to be baptized in order to be "raised" to a new life of godliness and the hope of eternal life (v. 29; Rom. 6:4-5; 1 Pet. 3:21-4:5)
- B) Would be no advantage in enduring persecution for Christ "live it up!" (vv. 30-34)
 - 1) Keeping company with evil associations will corrupt godly living and encourage sin!

III) The Glory and Victory of Our Resurrection (vv. 35-58)

- A) Paul affirms, describes, and rejoices in the future bodily resurrection from the dead
- B) God provides various bodies and glories as He pleases in this present realm and, therefore, is quite able to prepare our resurrected body for eternity (vv. 35-41)
- C) The body that is buried will be raised with a significant change in its nature (vv. 42-44)
 - 1) It [the body] is sown in corruption in dishonor in weakness in weakness a natural body

 It [the body] is raised in incorruption in glory in power a spiritual body
 - 2) Those who "bear" [or "wear"] the image of the earthly will also wear the image of the heavenly (vv. 45-49; cf. Phil. 3:21)
 - 3) At the resurrection we will "put on" [be clothed with] incorruption and immortality (vv. 50-53; see 2 Cor. 5:1-4)
- D) Our resurrection will be the final victory over death through our Lord Jesus (vv. 54-57)
- E) This hope is the basis for steadfastly abounding in the work of the Lord (v. 58)

Conclusion

The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is the central pillar of our faith in God. It is the basis of our present resurrection from the death of sin to the newness of spiritual life and the hope of our future resurrection from the death of the grave to the newness of eternal life. We must believe and obey the will of the risen Lord to be raised from the death of sin in anticipation of the resurrection from the death of the grave. Do you have this hope? Obey the gospel today!