

1st Corinthians: Be A Believer

Made Alive

1st Corinthians 15:20-28

1st Corinthians Refresher

- Written by Paul to the church in Corinth - Isthmus of Greece
- **“To live like a Corinthian”** untethered lifestyle (in contrast to the life of the Spirit, one of Self-control)
- Corrective letters
- **I do not want you to be ignorant: Israel, Gifts, Return**

Previously

- The Body, The Gifts of the Spirit, Godly Love
- Moreover...the Gospel - Good News
- Paul's conversion and motivation to work harder than anyone else - the grace given to him
- Right living in light of the Resurrection
- The truth of the resurrection - if it didn't happen, all of Christianity is in vain

Read Romans 5:12-21

[Pray]

:20a

Christ is risen from the dead!

This is resurrection

Coming to life again after being truly dead

If he didn't, he wasn't the messiah

Liar, lunatic or Lord

Easter - pagan name, Ishtar...Babylonian

Passover - Israel in Egypt, blood on the door, lamb, flatbread, dressed and ready to go

Crucifixion and resurrection

The implication on the resurrection and the forgiveness of our sins

It's not just a belief about whether he's still alive, but whether our sins are forgiven, whether we have hope in this life and the next

I believe it because it's true, but also because Jesus met me, found me, made me

**Do we believe it? Life and church affected by it
It should affect and effect everything**

:20b-23

Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep

Paul later brings it up, v36

Firstfruits, aparche - to take away the firstfruits of the productions of the earth which was offered to God. The first portion of the dough, from which sacred loaves were to be prepared. Hence term used of persons consecrated to God for all time.

persons superior in excellence to others of the same class

Tithed, given back to God - but also after a long, dead dormant season, the first to come to life

John 12:23-26 NKJV - But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him [My] Father will honor.

Even though many people died before Jesus, **he was the first to receive complete resurrection** (not resuscitation, not resurrection back to death like Lazarus and little girl and a little boy in the OT)

Adam sinned - death entered

Jesus died for sin - resurrection came

That's the difference - resurrection is unto eternal life, free from sin

Sons of Adam - we all die, following after our earthly forefather. It's the basic answer. We die because of the result of sin in the fallen world

Sons of Jesus - we all live, following after our heavenly father - SHALL BE MADE ALIVE

It's why Jesus was born a man - a god-man

Sin passed on from the father, Jesus' father is God the Father

Each one in his own order - Christ, then those who are Christ's at his coming

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV - But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive [and] remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

When people died before Jesus came, they died in hope of the messiah
When we die now, we die in hope, expectation, of the resurrection

They went to Abraham's bosom
We are present with the lord

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BTTF, Einstein dog in the car skipping over that minute

DNA, new bodies

People afraid of being cremated - think of all the people who were burned alive for their faith, eaten by wild animals, torn and spread out...do you think they won't be resurrected because of the method of death?

All of this world will be done away with - Peter, fervent heat - do you think you need your exact atoms and DNA and skin and bones for the resurrection?

God has you memorized, down to every hair on your head - he's not cloning you, he's resurrecting you to a new body, a glorious body, one free from sin and its effects, that includes the molecules, cells, dna, atoms, memories...

:24-28

Then comes the End

When our end comes, we must give an account of our life

Luke 12:20 NKJV - "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

We deliver our lives

Jesus delivers the Kingdom

There's a relief there, too, in our responsibility - we cannot MAKE others believe

No jihad

Acts 18:6 NKJV - But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook [his] garments and said to them, "Your blood [be] upon your [own] heads; I [am] clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

We share, we even "argue" at times - but after a while, there's nothing more we can do but pray

He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power

It all comes from God - and he uses it to accomplish his will

Daniel 2:20-22 NKJV - Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what [is] in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

That's the deception - that Satan can beat God. That it's even remotely possible. That anyone can fight him. That's the final battle, the world's armies in array ready to fight the "invader from another world" Jesus - thinking they can win, and they're wiped out in an instant, their blood filling up the valley as high as a horse's bridle

Jesus is God's son. The Father is in charge. The Father has given all authority to Jesus yet Jesus is in complete submission to the father.

Resurrection is taking power back from death - putting things back to the way they should be

Last enemy - death itself destroyed - think about all the things we do out of fear of death, dying, losing out, losing someone/something, etc. In reality, the fear of death should lead us to choosing eternal life.

Remember - we never were meant to die. We weren't meant to handle the knowledge of good and evil - it kills us. The only way we could find it out is through sin. God knows the extent of both apart from sin. He can handle it.

**Think about all he sees and hears every day
Jesus BECAME sin on the cross - of everyone**

**When we find out a little, it corrupts us, or burdens us
Not so with Jesus**

Resurrection and heaven and eternity will be better than the Garden and these bodies before sin

It's a New Creation, even better than this one - because sin, or the opportunity to sin, no longer plays a part

"That God may be all in all"

That's the opposite of sin - total, complete communion with God

Revelation 21:1-8 NKJV - Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them [and be] their God. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Resurrection is freedom from the second death.

**Are you going to be resurrected? Do you have the Holy Spirit as a guarantee?
Today is the day to receive it - it's not for tomorrow, but it's promise is for eternity.**