

THE RESURRECTION: ANTI-PATHETIC AND ANTI-PITTABLE!

“Without the resurrection there will not be a Christianity – Christianity stands or falls with the resurrection, and this single factor makes Christianity remarkably one of a kind.”

**Steve Kumar**

“If Christ be not risen, the dreadful consequence is not that death ends life, but that we are still in our sin.”

**G.A. Studdert Kennedy**

“Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest

evidence of all for the resurrection.”

**John Stott**

“Christ Himself deliberately staked His whole claim to the credit of men upon His resurrection. When asked for a sign, he pointed to this sign as His single and sufficient credential.” **B.B.**

**Warfield**

“Our Lord is risen from the dead, our Jesus is gone up on high. The powers of hell are captive led, dragged to the portals of the sky.” **Charles Wesley**

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; <sup>7</sup>then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; <sup>8</sup>and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11 NASB**

“First and foremost, I handed unto you the facts which had been imparted to Me...”

**V3 NEB**

“...I passed onto you among the primary principles of the good news which I had received.” **Williams**

“I transmitted to you before all the else what also had been transmitted in Me...”

**Weymouth**

- The most important things according to the Scriptures:
  - Jesus died for our sins.
  - He was buried.
  - He rose from the grave.
  - After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter (Cephas).
  - He appeared to the Twelve.
  - He appeared to 500 people.
  - He appeared to James.
  - He appeared to Paul.

“By the grace of God I am what I am. (v10)

<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, not even Christ has been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. <sup>15</sup> Moreover we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; <sup>17</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

**The Order of Resurrection**

<sup>20</sup> But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming, <sup>24</sup> then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

**1 Corinthians 15:12-26 NASB**

- The attack on the issues of First Importance. (1 Corinthians 15:12-26)
  - Some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead. (v12)
  - No resurrection means that even Jesus was not raised from the dead. (v13)
  - Results of a ‘no resurrection’ belief system. (v14)
    - Our preaching is in vain. (v14)
    - Your faith is worthless. (v14)
    - We are phonies, false witnesses. (v15)

- We are still in our sins, un-cleansed, un-forgiven, un-pardoned, bound for eternal hell...eternally separated from God and from righteousness, peace, and joy. (v17)
- Those who have proceeded us in death are simply departed and damned. (v18)
- We are to be most pitied above all people. (v19)

“...we are of all people most miserable and to be pitied.” **Amplified Bible**

“...we are unhappy beyond all other men.” **Knox**

“If there is no resurrection then anybody is better off than a Christian.” **L. Morris**

Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. **Revelation 3:17 NASB**

- The only two times this adjective ‘pitiable’ is found in the **NT**, it is describing the lukewarm church in Laodicea or the condition of the people of faith if the resurrection is not true.
- Poor, miserable, pitiful, pathetic fools...that’s what we would be if Jesus did not rise up from the grave.
- Of course the enemy has done all sorts of things to challenge the reality of the resurrection...but Jesus is alive and well and seated in heaven.

### **THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION AND IT’S IMPORTANCE (1 Corinthians 15:20-26)**

- He is risen. (v20)
- He is the first fruits promise of the eternal life. (v20)
- There were many eyewitnesses. (v5-8) Ever try to get 500 people to agree on anything? Hah!
- There will be untold millions who will be raised up as well. (v22-23)
- Results of believing that Jesus is the resurrection:
  - Our preaching is not in vain...it’s victorious.
  - Our faith is not worthless...it is of immeasurable value and eternal duration.
  - We are cleansed, pardoned, and forgiven of our sins and will live together forever with the Lord.
  - Those who have died are already with Him in heaven awaiting the resurrection.
  - We are true witnesses of the genuine Gospel of God.

### **The Mystery of Resurrection**

<sup>50</sup> Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup> O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; <sup>57</sup> but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-58 NASB**

### **THE PERSONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION. (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)**

- Being a Christian gives us life that outlives flesh and blood. (v50)
- Being a Christian puts His resurrection life in us now and a resurrected body at His return. (v50-57)
- Our personal belief in Jesus as the resurrection and our relationship with Him gives us a solid fruitful life right now, filled with the confidence that what we do is of first importance with God and for people. (v58)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be firm (steadfast), immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord [always being superior, excelling, doing more than enough in the service of the Lord], knowing *and* being continually aware that your labor in the Lord is not futile [it is never wasted or to no purpose]. **1**

**Corinthians 15:58 AMPC**

“...Be steadfast, immovable...knowing that your labor is NOT empty in the Lord.”

**V58 Transline NT**

“The service of the Lord is never thrown away...” **V58 Williams NT**

“...Your toil is not fruitless in the Lord...” **V58 Weymouth NT**