

Letters to the church in...



Corinth

Focus: 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

Lesson 15-Death, Life, and Resurrection

- **Proclaiming the Good News that Jesus Christ has died and risen for our sins “according to the Scriptures” (v.1-6)**
 - (v1,2) “...if you keep in memory what [was] preached unto you” “...being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work” (James 1:25).
 - **A faith that was “according to the Scriptures...”** This is why all the early Christians accepted Jesus as the Christ/Messiah!! (See Luke 24:25-27,32,44, 45; Acts 18:28). Jesus’ life and work perfectly fulfilled all of the prophecies of the Hebrews Scriptures concerning the Messiah!! (Examples: Psalm 22:15,16; Isaiah 53:5,6,10; written 1000 and 750 years before Christ, respectively). Jesus “died and rose again” according to the Scriptures!
 - **(v.5,6)—Many witnessed first-hand these great events!! “...this thing was not done in a corner” (Acts 26:26). “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables...but were eyewitnesses of His majesty” (2 Peter 1:16).** (v.6, “fallen asleep” here means death).
 - **How can we have eternal life?** “He who has the Son, has life, he who does not have the son, does not have life...” (1 John 5:11,12). “...these things are written that you may believe...and that believing you may have life through His name.” (John 20:31).
 - **A-accept and realize the fact that we are all sinners**—we have sinned (Romans 3:23). We must realize the problem we’re struggling with before it can be cured.
 - **B-believe in the Lord Jesus Christ** who can and will save us from all our sins (Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23)
 - **C-confess our sins to God through Jesus Christ** so that we may be forgiven and cleansed (1 John 1:9)
 - **D-Decide or choose to follow and obey the Lord’s voice out of love for Him** (John 14:15).
- **Paul: “...As one born out of due time...” (v.7-11)**
 - Paul had persecuted the church of God. He was madly against the church of Jesus Christ, until God had stopped him in his tracks by a vision from heaven. All of his letters testify to this fact!! Even the writings of Luke and the other apostles testify to the same fact! *Paul had been fighting for the wrong side. He was “born out of due time!” Isn’t it time also for us? That we might know and follow the truth of Jesus Christ?! “...so we preach and so you believed” (v.11).*
 - Paul says, “...But by the Grace of God, I am what I am...I labored more abundantly...**yet not I, but the grace of God** which was with me” (v.11; comparable to Galatians 2:20). **It is Christ in us who works and does His perfect will!**
- **The Christian’s hope is built and centered upon the resurrection of Jesus and eventually, His followers (v.12-19)**
 - (v.12) Some had falsely stated that there was no resurrection of the dead—But then, what could their faith possibly rest upon, if there was no resurrection from the dead?! **The Christian faith is built upon the fact that Jesus Christ has power over the grave!!**

(Among the Jewish sect of the Sadducees it was commonly reported that there was no such thing as a resurrection—ref. Mark 12:18).

- (v.18) “If Christ be not raised, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus have perished!!” Our faith and hope in Christ must go beyond this old life! (v.19). **Without the resurrection, Paul tells us, those who’ve died in Christ are perished!**
- **Death is always pictured as a “sleep” in the Bible (v.18)**
 - That’s how Jesus looked at it (ref. John 11:11-14)
 - **Ecclesiastes 9:5,6** make the reason for this very clear!
 - **Psalm 6:4,5** give more insights for us; it says the dead do not praise the Lord when they are dead. Death is a sleep until the resurrection morning! Jesus didn’t even see God the father until after his resurrection (ref. John 20:17).
 - To be a living soul requires that the dust (body) and breath of life from God come together—like at Creation! Death is merely the opposite (Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 12:7).
 - The Bible says no soul is immortal. Only God is now. A soul can die (Ezekiel 18:4; 1 Timothy 6:16). The idea of an immortal soul (that many Christians believe in) came from the Greeks—Plato and Aristotle, not from the Bible.
- **“In Christ, shall all be made alive...they that are Christ’s at His coming!” (v.20-28)**
 - Jesus said, “I will come again and receive you unto myself that you may be with me where I am” (John 14:2,3). Christ is returning for His people!! The “dead in Christ” will “rise first” when the Lord comes, then those of us who are still alive at His coming will be caught up “with them” “to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17). **Jesus is returning to gather all of His followers unto himself.** Why would He come back to gather his followers if they were already alive in heaven after they died? He wouldn’t need to!
 - (v.26) The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death!! (it’s day is coming! ref. Rev. 20:14).
 - (v.24,25,28) “...for He must reign until all enemies be put under His feet” “...then shall the son also be subject unto Him...” The Oneness of Christ and the Father will be more evident and complete even as it ought to be (as it was before the world was). The Kingdom of our Lord will last forever (ref. Dan. 7:14; Rev. 21:22).

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to receive the eternal life that Jesus Christ so freely offers, by asking Him to be the Lord and Savior of your life? _____