

I Am The Resurrection And The Life

Introduction

- Greek view of humanity – body was evil & a prison for the soul that needed to be released. They believed what we do in the body (sin) does not matter (1Co. 15:32). They believed in immortality of the soul, but not the body – no resurrection (Ac. 17:18, 32). Even some religious people deny the resurrection (Ac. 23:8). Eternal life meant the soul alone would live...!
- Christian view of humanity – a person is body & soul; both need to be redeemed (Ps. 31:9; Is. 10:18; Mt. 10:28). Both the soul & glorified body are immortal. The body will be resurrected.

I. The Resurrection of Jesus (1Co. 15:1-11)

A. The Historical Fact (1Co. 15:1-4)

The gospel affects our past, present & future – received, stand & being saved (v. 1-2). It was not invented by men. The OT had prophesied the birth, life, death & resurrection of Jesus (Psalms, Isaiah, etc.). These are historical facts!

B. The Witnesses (1Co. 15:5-8)

The bible only requires 2 or 3 witnesses to establish a matter as true (2Co. 13:1). But God ensured that many more witnesses could confirm Jesus' death & resurrection – Peter, the 12, 500 believers, James, all the apostles & finally Paul!

C. The Significance & Impact (1Co. 15:9-11)

The resurrection guarantees that any sin & sinner can be forgiven; grace can save the worst of sinners - HOPE. Without the resurrection there is no: Forgiveness of sin (1Co. 15:17); Justification (Rom. 4:25); Hope for the future (1Co. 15:19), Effectiveness in preaching (1Co. 15:14). But He has risen & we do have all of these great blessings... (1Co. 15:20).

II. The Resurrection of Believers

A. The Future Certainty

*Jesus was resurrected as the guarantee that believers will be resurrected likewise (1Co. 15:20-23). **Jesus Himself is the guarantee & He will do it** (Jn. 11:25; 6:39-40). *Our bodies will be transformed into a glorious body like Jesus by the same power that resurrected Him (1Co. 15:50-57; Phil. 3:20-21).**

B. The Significance & Impact

This body & what we do in this body affects us in eternity (1Co. 15:33-34; 2Co. 5:10 – rewards; Rev. 14:13). Therefore the believer should remain faithful in living holy & serving Christ until we die – fall asleep (1Co. 15:58)!

APPL: My beloved brothers & sisters this is the truth about our past, present & future. It is all bound up in Christ; He has covered our past, taking care of our present and has taken care of our future; He is our Savior, Good Shepherd, Healer, Protector, Provider, Peace & Joy, High Priest, our Great King; Alpha & Omega, the First & the Last, the Living One who died & now is alive forevermore; the one who is & was & who is to come, the Almighty. 2,000 years ago He went away to prepare a place for us... (Jn. 14:3-4). He's coming again soon! Will you be ready to go then? Are you ready now? Will you be steadfast... until He comes? Do you love Him who first loved you? Will you live for Him who died for you?

CONCLUSION

If you are not a Christian, there's no way for you to know this certainty of your past, present & future. There is no way for you to know this joy, peace, assurance, hope and anticipation about your eternal home and future. You cannot know these realities until you know Jesus; you must place your trust in Jesus to save. Jesus is willing to save now. Will you believe...

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