

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 15:1-11

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE? – PART 1

DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Death, Eternity, Resurrection, Hell, Heaven, God

Introduction to the Text:

1st Corinthians 15:1-11

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, :2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. :3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, :4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, :5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. :6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. :7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. :8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. :9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. :10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was with me*. :11 Therefore, whether *it was I or they*, so we preach and so you believed.

If you have ever thought about putting on your seatbelt before taking off – now would be the time!!!

Up until now Paul has dealt with the “**carnality**” that existed among the believers at Corinth. Then he moved on to the “**spirituality**” and the use of the gifts among the believers. Now he gets to the “**reality**” of being a Christian.

“The glory of the **Christian** and the **Church** and the **Bible** is that it has never viewed death as being a finality”
- **J.V. McGee**

The Greeks were very proud about what they believed and how tolerant they had become of all things - - but there was one thing they just couldn't wrap their spirituality around, and that was *the doctrine – the teaching of the resurrection from the dead.*

This is the reason why Paul had such a hard time in Athens Greece when – in Acts 17 he was walking around the city waiting for the rest of his missionary companions to arrive...

Acts 17:16-20

:16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, **his spirit was provoked** (*exasperated*) **within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.** **:17** Therefore he **reasoned** (*challenged*) in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. **:18** Then certain Epicurean and Stoic **philosophers** encountered him. And some said, “What does this babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” **because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.** **:19** And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? **:20** For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.”

They Were Deeply Spiritual People Regarding Their **Hedonistic, Humanistic, Epicurean** Lifestyle
(Pleasure meant everything, just like in California today)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

1.) Arguments from beyond the grave

:1 Moreover, brethren, I **declare** to you the **gospel** which I **preached** to you, which also you **received** and in which you **stand**, **:2** by which also you **are saved**, if you **hold fast** that **word** which I **preached** to you – **unless** you believed in vain.

One of, if not the greatest thing that caused the Corinthian church to stand out and apart from the greek culture was the FACT that they did believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is The Single Most Important Doctrine in Christianity – Without a Resurrected Savior, You Have Nothing.

:1a Moreover, brethren, I **declare** to you **the gospel**...

This “Moreover” of Paul’s is Tender.

He is saying that in light of all the things we’ve talked about and have had to deal with – let’s remember why all these things matter

It’s The Gospel - It’s The Gospel - It’s The Gospel -

This is the First Time Paul Addresses “**Heresy**” in The Corinthian Church.

For the last 2,000 years scholars and critics alike, both in the positive and in the negative of examining the scriptures and secular data surrounding the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - - have all agreed on this one thing – That it is the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead that is the NUMBER ONE key doctrine of Christianity. Remove it – and all what the Christian is and hopes to be falls and so do the scriptures!

The Resurrected Jesus Christ

Is the one and only source of all the world’s blessings.

If a man believes it – he will see the value to human life and a reason for living and dying. **If a man does not believe it** – he will see little use for life and has no meaning or purpose for living but for himself

Declare **grk: gnwri÷zw gnorizo, gno-rid´-zo;** to make known in such a way that someone may know it as anything else can be known. To certify, to give so that another can understand.

Gospel **grk: eujagge÷lion euaggelion, yoo-ang-ghel´-ee-on;** the good message. The message which brings gladness. The best and most valuable of news or information. The sweetest education.

Sneak Preview

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you first of all **that which I also received**: (1) that **Christ died** (2) **for** our sins (3) **according** to the Scriptures, :4 and (4) that He **was buried**, and (5) that He **rose again** (6) the **third day** (7) **according** to the Scriptures,

:1b ...the gospel - which I preached to you,

which – meaning a certain one. As you (the Christian, church) being that certain one. He presents his argument with a reminder to them about **The Preaching of the Gospel**.

Jesus Christ is Not Dead – But Has Risen From The Grave.

The literal bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ secures everything for us.

Don't Take This Wrong – But We Can Focus Too Much on His Death, Even the Cross – THAT WHICH QUALIFIES THE CROSS AND HIS DEATH IS THAT HE ROSE FROM THE GRAVE AND HE LIVES !!!

Acts 1:9-11

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. :10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, :11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus**, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Luke 24:13

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. :14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. :15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. :16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. :17 And He said to them, “What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?” :18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?” :19 And He said to them, “What things?” So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, :20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned

to death, and crucified Him. **:21** But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. **:22** Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. **:23** When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. **:24** And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.” **:25** Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! **:26** Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” **:27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Revelation 1:17-18

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. **:18** I *am* He **who lives**, and **was dead**, and behold, I am alive **forevermore**. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Revelation 2:8

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was **dead**, and came to **life**:

I Wanna Take You on a Drive-By of What’s Coming Up in the Chapter

:1c ...the gospel - which also you received

Note Here That They “Received” the Gospel.

The Gospel wasn’t invented. It was given, from God to man to woman, boy and girl...
The Gospel is to be handed, delivered until the whole world hears.

:1d ...the gospel - in which you stand,

Stand.

It’s your footing, foundation, firm place. Anchor, rock.

:2a ...the gospel - :2 by which also you are saved,

Saved.

Saved, being saved. Rescued, being rescued. Delivered, while being delivered

:2b ...the gospel - if you hold fast

Hold Fast

Being in the boat, **you hold on**. Being on the journey, **you stay on course**.

Hold Fast grk: to call up from memory. To pull up from the well. To retrieve the data stored. To hang on to it. To remain in it.

(The qualifier is not *if* the gospel is true or false - reality or a non-reality.
Because it is true, will you hang on to it all the way through to the end?)

(vs 2) unless you believed in vain.

Unless Your faith has been PLACED in the wrong person, place or thing.

The meaning is – if Jesus isn't risen from the dead, then your faith is worthless and irrelevant.

BTW

(Isn't that true for some people? – because Jesus is still dead to them, faith is silly, irrelevant, and for really dumb people)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE? ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

1.) Will you die with assurance?

Knowing that when it's time for you to die, you will be falling into the everlasting arms of Almighty God.

Because God Wants You To Die Assured

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE? ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

2.) Will you die in peace?

Wrapped safely in the eternal truth of God.

Because God Wants You To Die In Peace

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE**

3.) Will you die forgiven of your sins?

Knowing that you'll have confidence because Jesus Christ stepped in and took your place to pay your sin-debt which is owed to the Holy God.

Because God Wants You To Die Forgiven

Romans 1:16

For I am **not ashamed of the gospel** of Christ, for it is **the power of God to salvation** for everyone who believes,

Romans 4:25 NLT

He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

Look @ It This Way

“At His death He **subtracted** our sins. By His resurrection, He **added** His righteousness”

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE**

4.) Will you die ready?

Knowing that you've been living a life that's been pleasing to God and man.

Because God Wants You To Die Ready

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE**

5.) Will you die hopeful

Knowing that right now your life - past, present and future - is secured in the grip of God.

Because God Wants You To Die Hopeful

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE**

6.) Will you die alone?

Not knowing the ever-present, indwelling awareness that the LORD is your God, that He is your reality, and that He's with you.

Because God Wants You To Die with Him

Psalm 73:24

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. **:25** Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. **:26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Euripides wrote, "Yet mortals, burdened with countless ills, still love life. They long for each coming day, glad to bear the thing they know, rather than face the death, the great unknown."

Romans 8:38

For **I am persuaded** that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **:39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE**

7.) Will you die condemned?

Not knowing and never discovering that God was waiting your entire life for you to respond to His offer.

Because God Wants You To Die Pardoned

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

We then, as workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. :2 For He says: "*In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.*" Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE**

8.) Will you die too soon?

Will you die too soon (in the confusion of it all)?

Because God Wants You To Die On Time

Paul was fully aware and very ready to let go, to **untie the anchor** of his ship and sail to heavens harbor.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE**

9.) Will you die without knowledge?

Not knowing God can only be blamed on the person not wanting to know Him. We cannot blame God.

Because God Wants You To Die Knowing

John 3:15-19

that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. :16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. :17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. :18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. :19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE? ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

10.) Will you die saved?

Knowing that you're not saved – but lost – facing death and what happens after you die without the Love, Care and Protection of God from the grave and death and hell.

Because God Wants You To Die Saved

Romans 10:8-11

But what does it say? *“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”* (that is, the word of faith which we preach): :9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. :11 For the Scripture says, *“Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*

“GIVE THEM THE CROSS”

“TO THE COURT”

End of Study