

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 15:29-34

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHY?”

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 15:29-34

The Question “Why?” is almost extinct today.

A culture that is not taught to think and to question is doomed to tyranny.

1Pet. 3:15

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

1Cor. 15:29-34

Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? :30 And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? :31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. :32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” :33 Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” :34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

“WHY?”

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

1.) If the resurrection isn't true

v.29-30

VERSE 29'S “OTHERWISE”

IS A CONNECTOR TO PAUL'S ARGUMENT IN VERSES 19-20

1Cor. 15:19-20

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. :20
But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the **firstfruits** (*forerunner, first one, prototype*) of those who have **fallen asleep**. (*died trusting in Jesus Christ*)

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BELIEVER

AND THAT OF ALL HUMANITY EVENTUALLY IS A BIBLICAL DOCTRINE.

IF THE RESURRECTION ISN'T TRUE

1a.) Why is the Church still growing?

Verse 29a

Otherwise, what will they do who are **baptized for** the dead, if the dead do not rise at all?

baptized βαπτίζω **baptizo**, *bap-tid'-zo*; from a derivative of 911; to immerse, submerge; to make fully wet.

baptized for (*in place of or in the rank of*) the dead

The doctrine of the mormon church

makes every “worthy” or “qualified” mormon a redeemer. Every “good” mormon can be baptized for their dead, non-mormon relatives or descendants and thus save them.

This Teaching Makes Every Worthy Mormon a Savior.

In 1953 Dr. Harry Ironside was preaching in Chicago when a young man said to him. 'it's a shame that you put so much effort into preaching the cross of Christ. My church doesn't need the cross because salvation can be gotten thru our good merits as we are baptized for the dead, we save them by baptism.'

Mormon Temples Around The World

are the official locations where the living are saving the dead by this belief. they have been taught that they can redeem the lost-dead from out of a purgatory-like existence. - heresy

1Tim. 2:3-5

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, :4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. :5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Paul the Apostle said himself – that Jesus Christ did not call him to baptize but to preach the gospel. – (1 Cor. 1:17)

IF THE RESURRECTION ISN'T TRUE

1b.) Why is faith the main issue ?

Verse 29b

Why then are (they) **baptized** for the dead?

What Does This Mean?

What you hear versus what is biblical are sometimes two different things. In this case, what is other than biblical proves fatal.

First of all, Baptism is not exclusively “Christian”.

Baptisms were performed by some religions for differing reasons.

But What About The Christian **Purpose** or **Reason**?

What is Biblical and Non-Biblical About Baptism ?

IF THE RESURRECTION ISN'T TRUE

1c.) Why is being a Christian difficult ?

Verse 30

And why do we stand in **jeopardy** every hour?

jeopardy κινδυνεύω kinduneuo, *kin-doon-yoo'-o*; from 2794; to undergo peril: to willingly subject yourself to possible danger or death.

If There is Resurrection – What Are We Doing Here?

And For the life of me I cannot understand that;

How is it that In the 21st century, the American Christian has escaped persecution? - when our culture is so godless and so antichrist. I can only conclude that what is called Christian must not really be Christian. Because if we were – we would be in **peril** and **jeopardy** every hour.

Pastors have become popular and evangelists adored.

The neighborhood Christian is unknown to his neighbors as being a Christian. “I don’t want to upset them” or “make them feel uncomfortable” or “sound dogmatic”. Our 21st century Christianity is more preoccupied with being accepted and “like the world” so the world will like us. –

Character. Decency, Morality.

These virtues are bigger than us. they outlive us. They are larger than this earthly life. What’s amazing is this – it really matters now and more importantly “later” how we live our lives.

In eternity – **lying** here on earth - will matter then.
In eternity – **mercy** here on earth - will matter then.
In eternity – **arrogance** here on earth - will matter then.
In eternity – **honesty** here on earth - will matter then.

Luke 6:26-28

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets. :27 "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, :28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

John 15:20

:20 Remember the word that I said to you, "A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Am I hated because of my love for God, for Jesus, for you
and for the lost?

??? Do I Love Righteousness **???**

Stand for What's Right

And you will be hated — it will come.

2Th. 1:4-7

so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in **all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure**, :5 *which is manifest evidence* of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also **suffer**; :6 since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, :7 and to **give you who are troubled** rest with us **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,**

“WHY?”

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

2.) If life has no eternal meaning

v.31-32

IF LIFE HAS NO ETERNAL MEANING

2a.) Why endanger ourselves ?

Verse 31

:31 I **affirm**, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die (*suffer under the threat of imminent death*) daily.

2Cor. 11:23b-28

...In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. :24 From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. :25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; :26 *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; :27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness - :28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

IF LIFE HAS NO ETERNAL MEANING

2b.) Why put up with the effort ?

Verse 32a

If, in the manner of men, I have *fought with beasts* at Ephesus, what **advantage** is it to me? If the dead do not rise

Paul uses a Gladiatorial reality.

Being a Christian, and a Christian leader will lead you into great opposition to this world and world system.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 RSV

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Why, we felt that we had received the sentence of death: but that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead;

IF LIFE HAS NO ETERNAL MEANING

2c.) Why live like there is another life ?

Verse 32b

"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

this was a famous saying among the **epicureans** of the ancient world.

Just Like Today – Drive Thru Life Mentality.

Why? – Because!

2Cor. 12:15

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your **souls**;

Phil. 3:7-8

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...

1Cor. 9:22

to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, **that I might by all means save some.**

Have You Ever Thought About “Endings?”
(How will this movie end? How will this project end?)
There is an end coming (to this life) here on earth.

“WHY?”

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

3.) If there is no ethical value to living ? v.33-34

IF THERE IS NO ETHICAL VALUE TO LIVING

3a.) Why care about relationships ?

Verse 33

Do not be deceived: *“Evil company corrupts good habits.”*

The result of living without the fear of God and of a coming judgment.

Live It Up Now – Grab Everything You Can Now.
Live for as much pleasure as you possibly can Now.

This was a greek proverb -

“Evil company corrupts good habits.”

It means you become like – what you allow yourself to be exposed to.

What was happening in Corinth is what is happening in California.

Many Christians there were giving way to this "live it up" philosophy. Instead of making themselves available to spread the Word of truth, instead of giving themselves to the Spirit of God to be used in ways that would plant the seed of righteousness and love and truth in areas where people were hurting and suffering, they were giving way to the idea, "Enjoy yourself; that is what life is for." And they were running with people who thought that way. Paul reminds them, quoting a proverb of that day. "Bad company ruins good morals." So he says, "Come to your right mind; begin to face life realistically; stop kidding yourselves.

Today, Sexual Aberrance & Pleasure Is The Big Deal.

Pornography, Fornication, Adultery, Perversion and then comes the **defense** of it then the **justification** for it and then the **glamorization** of it all.

IF THERE IS NO ETHICAL VALUE TO LIVING

3b.) Why care about absolutes ?

Verse 34a

Awake to righteousness...

Awake ἐκνήφω *eknepho*, *ek-nay'-fo*; from 1537 and 3525; (figuratively) to rouse (oneself) out of stupor: — awake.

The LORD is a God of Absolutes.

IF THERE IS NO ETHICAL VALUE TO LIVING

3c.) Why care about outcomes ?

Verse 34b

...and **do not sin**; for some do not have the knowledge of God.
I speak this to your shame.

Some have wandered away from the Lord by allowing carnal thinking to guide them – be careful you don't allow the same thing to happen to you.

John 15:1-5,16

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. :2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. :3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. :4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. :5 “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. :16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

This is a battle, and we have the privilege of living in this time of history and affecting the world of our day. The time is rapidly passing. Make the proper use of it, he says, "for some are even professing to be Christians and have no real knowledge of God at all because they are living just like everyone around them."

So the apostle closes this section with this note: We are not the creatures of time. We are immortal beings. When we gather at the throne of God, the greatest privilege we will claim for ourselves is that we had the opportunity to labor for his namesake here in this life. Make the most of it, Paul says.

Will You Agree with God That

Rom. 3:23 you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, Rom. 6:23a That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death, Rom. 6:23b but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 5:8 Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you, in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you. Rom. 10:13 But He now says to you that "*if you would call on the name of the LORD* you shall be saved." Rom. 10:9-10 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.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

Come Forward for Prayer Today

End of Study

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