

WHERE IS THIS ALL HEADED? RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:12-19



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REVIEW OF LAST WEEK – GOSPEL CENTERED WORLDVIEW

Colossians 2:6 *Therefore as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,*

Questions a worldview needs to answer:

1. Why is there something instead of nothing?
2. What's gone wrong with the world?
3. Is there any hope in fixing what has gone wrong?

Colossians 1:18 - If Christ is preeminent in everything (and He is), any worldview that denies the person and work of Christ is less than a truly biblical, Christian or what I called gospel centered worldview and ultimately diverges far from it. Those other worldviews may affirm the principles or the same morality, but they approach things from a completely different motivation and goal. Everything we do must come from the gospel, flow through the gospel, and point to the gospel.

4. Where is this all headed?/What does the future look like?

WHERE IS THIS ALL HEADED? RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 *Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

Importance of beginning with understanding the meaning to the original audience/context.

Book of 1 Corinthians

Chapter 15

- v3-4 - Reminded the Corinthians of the gospel that he preached to them
- v6-8 - Pointed out the post resurrection appearances of the risen Christ
- v8-10 - Reminded them of his credentials as an apostle

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Problem: Some members of this congregation in Corinth had been claiming that there was no resurrection of the dead.

They were not doubting Christ's resurrection from the dead, we see that in verse 11

How did their culture view the resurrection? **Acts 17:32** *Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."*

In the new birth, they saw their heart change, they saw their desires change, but their body remained unchanged.

What do the Scriptures they possessed say?

- **Isaiah 26:19** *Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.*
- **Daniel 12:2-3** *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever*

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Comparison of our current bodies and our resurrection bodies

Current bodies – perishable (v42), dishonorable and weak (v43), natural (v44) and of dust (v48)

Resurrected bodies – imperishable (v42), glorified and powerful (v43), spiritual- yet a body (v44) and of heaven (v48).

Correspondence between the two, but resurrection body is superior in every way.

How does Paul handle this issue?

v1 – brothers, v 58 – beloved brothers

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

What is the form of Paul's argument? Reduction to absurdity - where do your beliefs lead you?

Paul is arguing with believers, Paul knows that they believe that Christ was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures (v11), Paul knows they had seen the power of the gospel in their own lives (6:9-11). These things are a part of their presuppositions - something Paul knows they affirm before he begins his argument.

His other points flow out of this one:

- v14 - The Apostles' preaching and their faith is in vain.
- v15 - The Apostles are misrepresenting God because he testified that he raised Christ.
- v17 - Their faith is futile and they are still in their sin.
- v18 - those Christians that have died since the resurrection have perished.

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

Many affirm morals and truth about Jesus – the resurrection is one of the dividing lines.

Ephesians 2:4-6 *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

Christ's resurrection not only foreshadows and guarantees our glorious bodily resurrection and all that will be ours at the great consummation, but is also the basis of *present* blessings.

Already (present blessings):

1. Redemption

John 19:30 *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

2. Regeneration

1 Peter 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

3. Justification (v17)

Romans 4:23-25 *But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification*

Philippians 2:5-11 *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 **Therefore** God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

4. Sanctification

- **Romans 6:4-5, 22** *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ...22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.*

15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

For Paul had seen the risen Christ. He testifies to it again in v 8.

One lie could undermine everything they had taught.

Price Paul paid for NOT backing down from the truth:

2 Corinthians 11:23-24 *Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one--I am talking like a madman--with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. 24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.*

16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

v16 - Repetition of what was said in verse 13 which is the foundation of Paul's argument.

v17 – they knew that their faith was not futile

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers (abusive, harsh and bitter), nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

V18 – you are still in your sins (v17), the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23); therefore, their fellow Christians had perished.

19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Not Yet (future blessings)(v14):

1. In Christ, we have hope in our resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:20 *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

Firstfruits – a token of the remainder of the harvest.

The remainder of the harvest:

1 Corinthians 15:51-55 *Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 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 shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*

19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

2. In Christ, we have hope in the resurrection of creation.

2 Peter 3:10-14 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.*

New – newness in quality, not a newness in kind

19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Our resurrection and the resurrection of the entire cosmos are wonderful truths, but we have to remember this is not ultimately about us, it is not ultimately about creation, it is about Christ - HE MUST BE PREEMINENT

Revelation 5:11-13 *Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"*

When we understand that our purpose, the purpose of this whole universe and everything and everyone in it is to bring honor and glory to Christ, when we capture the vision of the centrality of Christ in all things it makes a difference in even the minutest aspects of our lives.

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

Be doers of the word and not hearers only.

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

2 Peter 3:14 *Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.*

Warning and Exhortation

Acts 17:30-32 *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."*