

1 Corinthians 15 – The Resurrection of Christ

Introduction

1. Corinthian Context: The church was problematic
 - a. Divisions and Factions
 - b. Inclined toward Greek wisdom, therefore critical of Paul
 - c. Tolerance of flagrant sin
 - d. Unsympathetic to weaker Christians concerning eating meat sacrificed to idols
 - e. False teaching on the Resurrection from the dead (**1 Cor 15:12**)
 - i. Greeks saw the physical body as a hindrance and a drawback – therefore to be “spiritual” was to have nothing to do with the body and everything to do with the soul
 - ii. This caused moral issues (marriage, temples, etc.)
 - iii. Heaven was a place for the disembodied soul
 - iv. Therefore, they denied the resurrection of the dead

The Main Idea: Jesus is the resurrection and the life. “I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and *rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures*. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.” – *The Nicene Creed*

The Christ Events: The Historical, Objective Truth (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

Paul’s Method – He begins with Truth rather than directly addressing heresy

1. The Incarnation – Jesus entered into History
 - a. Jesus Christ was on earth, in the flesh (**Galatians 4:4-5**)
 - b. The eternal Son of God entered space and time, became flesh
 - c. The second member of the Trinity (Godhead) had skin like ours
2. The Crucifixion – Jesus physically died on a Roman Cross
 - a. Mock trials, Roman soldiers who beat Him, Pilate who washed his hands of Him, Jewish leaders who plotted His death
 - b. Jesus was killed on a Roman Cross at Golgotha in Jerusalem
3. The Resurrection – Jesus was physically raised from the dead
 - a. He was not a spirit, phantom, myth, idea, vision of the soul, or heavenly light; Jesus’ real earthly body was raised from the dead – He walked physically out of the tomb
 - b. He was seen by many – Six times it is mentioned in our text, five more times by others in the Gospels
4. Jesus of Nazareth belonged to History – He is the center of History, and divides History – the reason we are in 2022

The Christ Events: The Prophetic Fulfillment (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

1. The Messiah’s Death
 - a. A seed from the woman would be bruised (**Genesis 3:15**)
 - b. He would be mocked, Gentile dogs would cast lots for his clothing (**Psalms 22:1, 6-8, 16-18**)
 - c. He would be pierced by nails on the Cross (**Isaiah 53:5**)
 - d. He would remain silent before His accusers (**Isaiah 53:7**)
 - e. He would be crucified among thieves (**Isaiah 53:12**)
2. The Messiah’s Burial
 - a. He would be buried in a rich man’s tomb (**Isaiah 53:9**)
3. The Messiah’s Resurrection
 - a. He would be in the earth as long as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish: 3 days and 3 nights (**Jonah 1:17, Mat 12:40**)
 - b. His body would not see corruption in the grave (**Ps 16:10**)
 - c. As the representative of His people, what happens to Him, happens to His people – raised on the 3rd day (**Hosea 6:1-2**)

The Christ Events: The Theological Significance

1. Behind each objective, prophetic, historical event, there is a deeper theological meaning or happening; *What happened?*
2. Sinful Humanity: Man created in the image of God was meant to be in fellowship with the Lord, have communion with Him, have knowledge of Him, but fell into Sin
 - a. Man entered into darkness and lostness (**Rom 3:10, 23, 6:23**)
 - b. All of fallen humanity is under the wrath of God (**Eph 2:1-3**)
 - c. The remedy for fallen humanity was for the Father to send the Son in the fullness of time to redeem fallen man
 - d. The Christ events are good news with power to save (**Rom 1**)
3. Jesus’ Crucifixion – His Death
 - a. He became the sinner’s substitute (**2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24**)
 - b. His righteousness imputed to the sinner, Our sin imputed to Him (**Galatians 3:13, Romans 5:19, Philippians 3:8-9**)
 - c. He satisfied the wrath of God (Propitiation) (**Romans 3:25, 1 John 4:10, 2:1-2**); Jesus appeased the wrath of God
 - d. He redeemed, reconciled, and forgave the sins of His people (**Col 4:13-14, 2 Cor 5:18-19, Eph 2:13-16**)
4. Jesus’ Burial and Resurrection
 - a. Jesus literally and physically died – His blood paid for sins
 - i. Three days is significant in Jewish culture (**John 11:39; cf. The Talmud, S’machot 8:1**)
 - b. Declared the Son of God in Power! (**Romans 1:4**)
 - c. The death of Death and the death of Sin! (**Romans 6:8-11, 8:1-2; Isaiah 25:8**)
 - d. Guarantee of the Believer’s Resurrection (**1 Cor 15:50-56**)

Conclusion: Salvation depends on belief in the historical event & belief in the theological significance behind the historical event (**1 Cor 15:14-17, 20**)