

1 Cor 15:1-11 – Resurrection, pt. 1 (The Necessity)
Midweek: Corinthians
4/4/18

Introduction:

- We often talk about the death of Jesus – But what about his resurrection?
 - 4 Parts:
 - The Necessity
 - The Evidence
 - Why it Matters Now
 - Why it Matters in the Future
- The Necessity of the Resurrection
 - What is the “Most Important Good News”?
 - What does the Resurrection Gospel Do to Believers?
 - What do Believers do with the Resurrection Gospel?

What is the “Most Important Good News”?

1 Cor 15:3a, ³ *For I passed on to you as **most important** what I also received...*

- The Most Important Good News (According to the Scriptures)
 - The Two Main Elements to the Gospel
 - Jesus died for our sins
 - Jesus was buried and rose from the dead

• **ATONEMENT**

1 Cor 15:3b-4a, ...*that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried*
...

- Talked about last week: Why did Jesus have to die?
- **Big Idea:** In the death of Jesus, he holds together the justice of God and the love of God.
 - Proving God’s unconditional love to mankind, yet not compromising His character by satisfying His wrath on Jesus, our Great High Priest and substitute.
 - This is According to the Scriptures (here and in a second)
 - WHAT SCRIPTURES?
 - Acts 2:23
 - The Scriptures are listed as the source of authority, PRIOR to the apostolic witness

• RESURRECTION

1 Cor 15:4b-8, ... *that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,* ⁵ *and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.* ⁶ *Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep.* ⁷ *Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.* ⁸ *Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me.*

- According to Paul, right alongside of the most important good news, that Jesus died for our sins, is that HE ROSE AGAIN.
 - And there is proof (Set up Next Week: Evidence)
 - He appeared to Cephas (Peter), to the 12, to 500, to James, to the rest of the other apostles, and then to Paul
- Why is the Resurrection part of the Essential Gospel message?
 - Atonement, forgives us of sin
 - Resurrection, allows for transformation
 - What was once dead, now has life
 - It's one thing to say that Jesus died for our sins, but without the resurrection, Jesus simply gives us a clean conscience before we cease to exist.
 - The death of Jesus defeats sin, the resurrection of Jesus defeats death.

What does the Resurrection Gospel Do to Believers?

1 Cor 15:9-11, ⁹ *For I am the least of the apostles, 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. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.* ¹¹ *Whether, then, it is I or they, so we proclaim and so you have believed.*

The Resurrection: Transforms by Grace

- Covers our sin, makes us alive in Christ.
- Restoring us back to the Intent
- Let's look at the 3 folks mentioned in this passage:

• James (ILLUMINATION)

- James' unbelief
 - Mk 3:20-21

Jesus entered a house, and the crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat. ²¹ *When his family heard this, they set out to restrain him, because they said, "He's out of his mind."*

- Jn 7:5

(For not even his brothers believed in him.)

- Post Resurrection James
 - 1 Cor 15:7
 - Gal 1:19
 - Paul meets with James, and he offers this as a validation for his apostleship.
 - Gal 2:9-10
 - *When James, Cephas, and John—those recognized as pillars—acknowledged the grace that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to me and Barnabas, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.*
- What changed? THE RESURRECTION.
- Resurrection changed James from a Bitter Half-Brother to Co-Heir with Christ

• Paul (TRANSFORMATION)

- Acts 7 – Laying the garments at the feet of Saul
- Acts 9:20 – He is the Son of God
 - Resurrection Changes Paul from a Persecutor to a Proclaimer
 - READ verse 10 again
 - *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.*

• Peter (RESTORATION)

- Denial
 - Jn 18:15-18; 25-27

¹⁵ Simon Peter was following Jesus, as was another disciple. That disciple was an acquaintance of the high priest; so he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. ¹⁶ But Peter remained standing outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the girl who was the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ Then the servant girl who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" "I am not," he said. ¹⁸ Now the servants and the officials had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold. They were standing there warming themselves, and Peter was standing with them, warming himself...

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" ²⁷ Peter denied it again. Immediately a rooster crowed.

- Restoration
 - Jn 21:1-19

[After the Resurrection, Peter is fishing in a boat, and Jesus appears]

⁷ The disciple, the one Jesus loved, said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tied his outer clothing around him (for he had taken it off) and plunged into the sea... (Skip to verse 9)

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. ¹⁰ "Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus told them. ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed up and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish—153 of them. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

¹² "Come and have breakfast," Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord... (Skip to 15)

¹⁵ When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said to him, "you know that I love you."

"Feed my lambs," he told him. ¹⁶ A second time he asked him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," he said to him, "you know that I love you." "Shepherd my sheep," he told him. ¹⁷ He asked him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." "Feed my sheep," Jesus said.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, when you were younger, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don't want to go." ¹⁹ He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. After saying this, he told him, "Follow me."

- The resurrection changes Peter from a Denier to a Defender
 - Restoration to the point of death
- What about you?
 - Augustine (4th century)
 - The story is told of Augustine, the fourth century theologian and Bishop of Hippo in north Africa, who, after he confessed faith in Jesus Christ, ran into a former mistress on the street. Immediately upon recognizing her, Augustine quickly reversed and began swiftly moving in the opposite direction. The woman, surprised by seeing Augustine and equally surprised at his reversal of his route, cried out, "Augustine, it is I." Augustine, continuing to move away from her, replied, "Yes, but it is not I."
- The resurrection is necessary because it is the grace of God to Transform our lives from death into life.
- Col 2:12-15; 20; 3:3

¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. ¹⁴ He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him... ²⁰ If you died with Christ to the elements of this world, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world?...

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

What do Believers do with the Resurrection Gospel?

1 Cor 15:1-2, Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

- Receive the Gospel
 - Welcome the Gospel into your life.
- Stand in the Gospel
 - Put the Gospel flag on your life (Claimed Territory).
- Be Transformed by the Gospel
 - Don't simply play the "waiting for heaven game"
 - Pick up on this more in a few weeks – Why does the resurrection matter now
- Hold on to the Gospel
 - Persevere to the end. Do not lose heart
- Preach the Gospel
 - What do you do with good news?
 - SHARE IT.