

1 Corinthians When Faith & Life Collide

Study 19

The Gospel and The Resurrection Part 1

1 Corinthians 15:1-34

A. Proof of the Resurrection for their Faith in the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 (NIV)

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

1. Discussion Question. How does one “believe in vain”?

Supplementary reading

DA Carson commentary:

“The resurrection of Jesus belongs to the teaching tradition of the gospel that Paul has received and passed on to the Corinthian believers. Without Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, the gospel is not good news, since sinners would not be saved. The Christian faith serves no purpose (is “in vain”) without Jesus’ resurrection and thus provides no salvation; if one translates the Greek as “without due consideration,” Paul says that people who think of themselves as Christians have an incoherent faith if they do not accept Jesus’ resurrection as a historical fact.”

B. The Gospel Content-Event, Earliest Known Creed

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 (NIV)

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

2. a) Fill in the Blanks. According to the video lecture slide, write down the Creed.

Verse	Creed content
Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures	
that he was buried	
that he was raised on the third day	
according to the Scriptures	

Supplementary reading

Definition of Creed: (from Oxford Languages)

a system of religious belief; a faith

- a formal statement of Christian beliefs, especially the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.

- a set of beliefs or aims which guide someone's actions.

C. Proof of the Resurrection-Witnesses of Resurrection-Disciples

1 Corinthians 15:5-11 (NIV)

and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve 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 to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them— yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

3. a) **Fill in the Blanks.** According to the video lecture slide, fill in the five Minimal Facts Approach to the Resurrection proposed by Gary Habermas and is accepted by 75% of scholars.

	The most plausible explanation is the Resurrection

- b) **Reflection Question.** Verse 10 says “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” How do we know if we are affected by grace or works? Will that change from season to season?

D. Arguments for Why Resurrection Matters

1 Corinthians 15:12-28 (NIV)

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For he “has put everything under his feet.”[c] Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

4. Fill in the Blanks. According to the video lecture slide, fill in the blanks on why the resurrection is central to our faith.

Why the resurrection is central to our faith	
Argument from the negative	Argument from the positive

E. How Does the Resurrection Make a Difference in the Way We Live

1 Corinthians 15:29-34 (NIV)

29 Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? 30 And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? 31 I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised,

“Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die.”

33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame

5. a) **Discussion Question. Verse 29 mentions a confusing “baptized for the dead”, what does it mean?**

Supplementary reading

DA Carson commentary:

baptized for the dead. This phrase is most plausibly understood as referring to Christian water baptism, described in a manner that adapts to the context: if there is no resurrection from the dead, it makes no sense for new Christians (who were spiritually “dead” before their conversion) to undergo baptism if faith and baptism have no effect on what happens after death. Christians who deny a future resurrection of the body render baptism, which connects the “dead” sinner with the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, meaningless. Others interpret the phrase as referring to a vicarious baptism on behalf of deceased people, a practice that would have been unique to the Corinthian church.

- b) **Fill in the Blanks. According to the video lecture slide, fill in the blanks on how the resurrection makes a difference in the way we live.**

World view	Eternal security	Part of the victorious team	God is supremely glorified
How we see suffering and pain in the world Not fatalistic	Hope beyond death Willingness to sacrifice	The privilege of playing a role in making a difference Making use of our time and our lives	He is most worthy to be worshipped

c) Reflection Question. Verse 30-34, Paul says “If the dead are not raised at all... why do we endanger ourselves every hour?” On a scale of 0-10, how excited do you feel about the resurrection? 0: being no feeling, 10: being willing to put your life at risk to share Christ’s resurrection.

d) Discussion Question. Is Paul against the YOLO attitude to life? “If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” ” YOLO is abbreviation for "you only live once": used, especially on social media, to mean that you should do things that are enjoyable or exciting, even if they are silly or slightly dangerous.

Supplementary reading

DA Carson commentary:

“fought wild beasts.” Probably a life-threatening situation in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-31; cf. Rom 16:3-4).

“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” If there is no bodily resurrection, one might as well follow this hedonistic motto, which quotes Isa 22:13 (cf. the Latin motto *carpe diem*, “seize the day”).

“Do not be misled.” Paul spends so much time discussing bodily resurrection because it is a serious mistake to think that the believers’ future is not affected by their present behaviour.

“Bad company corrupts good character.” The quotation is usually said to derive from a lost comedy by the Greek poet Menander; Socrates suggests that the saying goes back to the Greek tragedian Euripides. For Paul, the “bad company” are the people who claim that there is no resurrection (v. 12).

Paul admonishes the Corinthians with two further exhortations: (1) return to a sound theological and ethical position and practice, and (2) stop engaging in a sinful lifestyle. stop sinning. This admonition establishes the foundational nature of Paul’s discussion of bodily resurrection: Christians who look forward to the

resurrection of their bodies do not take sin lightly but do everything they can to avoid it.

Takeaway

- 1) **Theological Importance:** The physical resurrection of Jesus is an important factor for our faith because it is a sign of our future state after our earthly death and it shows that death is defeated and is the evidence of God's decisive victory in Christ.
- 2) **Practical Implications:** The fact that Jesus is resurrected means we will be as well and that affects how we live today: our lifestyle towards being more like God/holy and the urgency to invite others on board.

Case Study

Case 1 – Resurrection of Christ

Jom Bee is a new believer, he does not see the importance of Christ's resurrection. He thinks it's impossible for humans to come back to life. He thinks the Bible is only talking about spiritual resurrection, you are a new person on the inside, and there won't be a new body.

He says some bodies have been cremated into ashes already, how would God reconstruct the body?

1. a) **Discussion question.** You are the life group leader of Jom Bee, what would you say to him?

- b) **Reflection Question.** The verses above listed evidence of people who saw the Resurrected Jesus. Dr. Peter in the video lecture mentions we are not saved by theological ideas about Christ; we are saved by Christ himself. On a scale of 0-10, how significant does Jesus' resurrection FEEL to you?

c) Reflection Question. Share what your thoughts are about what kind of life is possible with the resurrected new body in a new heaven and new earth.

It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*,