



SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019
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**"THE REALITY OF JESUS'
RESURRECTION"**
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

INTRODUCTION

Paul addressed many issues in Corinth so that each person could act on his or her calling. In the last chapter of this book he speaks about some significant doctrinal error. Some didn't even believe in the Resurrection! This could have been because of the strong Gnostic influence in that area. (They claimed that Jesus couldn't be God because He had a body). The Gospel in its purest form is about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, v.3-4. Paul was arrested for proclaiming this. The great hope is the resurrection of the believer. Strangely, 30% of professed Christians don't believe in the Resurrection! Do you?

DECLARE THE GOSPEL

The Gospel, or the Good News, is the best news that anyone can hear! God kept it simple so that anyone could understand it. **Romans 1:16** says that "the gospel of Christ...is the power of God to salvation". He anoints and empowers this method. "**And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?", Romans 10:14.**

Jesus died for our sins, v.3, 4. We need to admit that we are sinners! We have all sinned and fall short of God's standard, **Romans 3:23**. Sins are indelible and remain on our record. But, since Jesus died for our sins, when we are born again, our record is then cleared. Only God can do that! **Colossians 2:14**. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, **John 3:16**. This truth is attested to in the Old Testament, **Isaiah 53**. In v.4, "**He has borne our griefs, carried our sorrows.**" In v. 5, "**He was bruised for our iniquities**", and in v.6, "**the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**"

Jesus was buried. There were many that attested to this. "**And they made His grave with the wicked-but with the rich at His death...**", **Isaiah 53:9**. "**For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will you allow your Holy One to see corruption**", **Psalm 16:10**.

Jesus rose from the dead! This is a necessary part of the gospel. The fact that He did uniquely qualifies Him as Savior. Jesus said that He was the Resurrection and the life, **John 11**. However, the Corinthians did not remember or believe this! Was this too miraculous for them? Too supernatural? Without the Resurrection there is no gospel.

A RELIABLE SOURCE?

Actually, Paul was a very reliable source of this information. He was close in time to the actual events (55-59 AD). For other historical figures such as Alexander the Great, trusted accounts of his life are actually hundreds of years old. Paul met with Peter for 15 days and the message was confirmed. There were 500 brethren who were witnesses to the risen Christ. While Paul may have felt disadvantaged by his past, he met with the Lord later in his life!

CONSIDER

The Gospel is as powerful today as it was then. Let's commit to sharing the Gospel with others this year. How about 10? Many have never heard it presented to them. We may all have pasts that are unseemly, but our records can be cleaned because of what Jesus did. That's why the Resurrection changes everything! (*All Scripture references are the New King James Version.*)

PRAY

- * That we would have hearts that love the lost! Lord, help us be more evangelistic in our lifestyles!
- * That our Resurrection service would draw even the most distant of souls to see Jesus as the risen Lord!
- * That many who have walked away from God would return to their first love!