

Message #68

I Corinthians 15:29-34

Knowing and believing the doctrines of the Bible is a critical issue in the sight of God. In fact, to disbelieve or to deny a doctrine of God is to sin against God.

ONE WHO DISBELIEVES AND DENIES THE DOCTRINE OF THE RESURRECTION IS ONE WHO DENIES REALITY, CHRISTIANITY, MINISTRY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND SHAMEFULLY SINS AGAINST GOD.

One who denies the doctrines of God is one who is carnal and spiritually dead. There are some very serious consequences for the believer who denies sound doctrine.

These Corinthians prided themselves on being very mature and knowledgeable, but from God's perspective, they were a carnal (3:3) bunch of doctrinal fools (15:36).

SEGMENT #1 – The logical negative consequences of denying the resurrection. **15:29-32**

Consequence #1 - A person who denies the resurrection contradicts even false religious beliefs and practices. **15:29**

What we do know is that the Bible does not teach any form of “baptism for the dead.” We may also observe that those practicing this religious ritual are classified as “those” and “they,” not “we.”

According to the *Encyclopedia of Mysticism*, Eleusis, the most famous mystery religion of Greek philosophy and religion, featured two annual festivals in Athens, which featured a ritual baptism, which supposedly guaranteed a future life. These were godless heathen religious festivals that believed and practiced a ritualistic baptism for dead people, thinking that it would benefit them on the day of resurrection (John Ferguson, *Encyclopedia of Mysticism*, pp. 52-53).

Paul, by referring to this, is really rebuking the Corinthians. He is saying even false religions acknowledge that someday there will be a resurrection.

Consequence #2 - A person who denies the resurrection contradicts dangers in ministry. **15:30**

II Corinthians 11:26 makes it clear that just about Paul's entire ministry was spent going from one dangerous life-threatening place and situation to another.

His point was if there is no such thing as the resurrection, why should he put up with all of the danger? Why should he endure the threats and humiliation and life-impending dangers?

Consequence #3 - A person who denies the resurrection contradicts ministerial boasting. **15:31**

There are no grounds for boasting about people on a path of death.

Boasting in Jesus Christ or about those who have trusted Him is very foolish if there is no resurrection, for that means people are sacrificing and dying for nothing.

Consequence #4 - A person who denies the resurrection contradicts a profitability of spiritual warfare. **15:32a**

Paul was writing this letter to the Corinthians from Ephesus (I Cor. 16:8). While he was in Ephesus, he had been in fierce and hostile spiritual warfare against religious leaders (Acts 19:8-9), against demons (Acts 19:12), and against Satanists (Acts 19:19).

Paul's point is if there is no resurrection, why bother fighting a good war against these evil forces?

Consequence #5 - A person who denies the resurrection contradicts the value of a godly life. **15:32b**

If the dead are not raised, we should devote our lives to eating and drinking because this is it and when we die, it is all over.

In this life there is no point in being disciplined for God if there is no resurrection.

SEGMENT #2 – The theological negative classifications of denying the resurrection. **15:33-34**

Classification #1 - A person who denies the resurrection is deceived. **15:33a**

What this means is that one who denies the resurrection is one who, in God's estimation, has strayed. God considers one to be deceived who does not adhere to sound doctrine.

Classification #2 - A person who denies the resurrection is corrupt. **15:33b**

A person becomes corrupt in God's sight when he listens to and believes those who lead one away from God's truth and God's doctrines.

People who present false doctrine are evil in God's sight and those who accept false doctrine are corrupt.

Classification #3 - A person who denies the resurrection is like a drunk. **15:34a**

The words "become sober-minded" are words designed to challenge the Corinthians to sober up from their doctrinal stupor. In this context, to sober up means to become doctrinally stable.

False doctrine is intoxicating!

Classification #4 - A person who denies the resurrection is in sin. **15:34b**

Doctrinal ignorance is sin against God. If one chooses to stay ignorant of God's Word, one is choosing to stay in sin.

To be ignorant of God's doctrines or to deny one of God's doctrines is to sin against God.

Classification #5 - A person who denies the resurrection negatively influences those classified by God as ignorant. **15:34c**

Paul is clearly stating that when one adheres to false doctrine, it negatively influences others. People with "no knowledge of God" have no idea what to believe. The result is the one who is propagating the false doctrine is ignorant and the people listening are ignorant.

Classification #6 - A person who denies the resurrection is classified by God as shameful. **15:34b**

Deny sound doctrine or remain ignorant of sound doctrine and God is ashamed of you and the day you get before Him, you will be ashamed of yourself!

Paul gave three specific commands to those who had been swayed falsely:

(Command #1) - Stop being deceived. **15:33**

(Command #2) - Start sobering up. **15:34a**

(Command #3) - Stop sinning. **15:34b**

Doctrinal ignorance is a deceptive, drunken, dominating sin against God!

The issue for any believer at the judgment seat of Christ will not be were we saved; it will be did we faithfully learn, grow and serve.