

1Cor 15.1-8—Christ is Risen!

The gospel is the gospel of Christ's resurrection, vv. 1-5

- I. The gospel preached by the apostles was essentially the good news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.
 - A. Acts 2.22-24, 32; 5.30-32; 2Tim 2.8.
- II. Paul reminds the Corinthians that the gospel he preached had for its center, the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, vv.3-5.
 - A. This center is at the center of the New Testament and all its teachings. This center gives meaning to all else that we affirm as Christians.

Salvation in Christ attests to Christ's resurrection, vv. 1-2

- I. Their own salvation attested to Jesus' resurrection because the gospel by which they were saved was the gospel of Jesus' resurrection, v.1.
 - A. How, then, can they enjoy the fruit of Christ's resurrection and yet deny the resurrection?
- II. The entire Christian experience and life grows out of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead for His people.
 - A. No man can be a Christian without confessing and believing in it, Rom 10.9. To deny it is to deny Christianity.
 - B. To be a Christian is to enjoy the life of the resurrected Christ, Eph 2.4-6; Col 2.12-13; Rom 8.11.
 - C. The hope of eternal life is secured by and grounded in the resurrection of Christ, 1Pet 1.3-4.
 - D. The Christian hope itself is the return of the resurrected Christ as King, 1Thes 1.10.
 - E. The Christian life is lived in light of having been raised with Christ in His resurrection, Col 3.1-3.
- III. Do you enjoy this evidence of Christ's resurrection?

The OT Scriptures attest to Christ's resurrection, vv. 3-4

- I. The death, burial, and resurrection were according to the prophecies of the Old Testament: Gen 3.15; Ps 2.7; Acts 2.27; Ps 16.10; Hos 6.2; Acts 26.22-23; and Lk 24.25-27, 44-47.
 - A. The resurrection of Christ from the dead has its primary objective evidence in God's own infallible revelation in the OT.

B. This means the OT gives us an infallible frame of reference and interpretive key to understand all that transpired in the life of Jesus.

- 1. There's no way to make sense of Christ's life without the preparation and background of the OT.
- 2. The OT is preparation for Christ's person and work and the NT is fulfillment in and by Jesus Christ.
- II. Do you see the Bible this way? It tells you of your sin and need for a Saviour, but it also tells you that Jesus is that Saviour. Do you believe this? You must, if you would be saved, Acts 4.12; Jn 14.6.

Eyewitness accounts attest to Christ's resurrection, vv. 5-8

- I. Christ's resurrection was attested and corroborated by hundreds of eyewitness accounts, Dt 19.15. We believe so many other things on far less evidence.
 - A. Therefore a Christian's hope in Christ does not rest upon a myth, a lie, a dream, or a wish, but upon the truths and facts of God's work in history, 2Pet 1.16; Jn 20.29.

What does it matter?

- I. It matters because Christ's resurrection is God's sure testimony to all who reject Him that there is a Judgment Day and that Christ Himself will be the Judge, Acts 17.30-31; Rom 2.16; 2Cor 5.10; Jn 5.22.
 - A. Can you imagine the horror of standing before the Judge whom you despised and rejected, Heb 10.26-31?
- II. It matters because the resurrection of Christ is also God's sure testimony that all who trust in Him won't be put to shame on that day, Rom 5.1; 6.23; 1.16; 10.13.
 - A. Can you imagine the joy of standing for judgment before the One who loves you and died for you and whom you love and have served?
- III. It matters because both our present and eternal welfare are determined by our relationship to the resurrected Christ.
 - A. The question is not "Has Christ been raised?" but "Do you believe it and have you surrendered your life to Him as your Lord?" Your eternal destiny rests on this question, Mt 16.15.