

Resurrection Risk and Ambition (1 Cor 15:30–34; Phil 3:7–11)
4/21/19, GCC Morning Worship: Easter Sunday

Introduction

- A. Parallel Dimensions and the Resurrection
 - B. The Radical Consequences of a World without the Resurrection
 - 1. Not even Christ has been raised (I Cor 15:13)
 - 2. Our preaching of the gospel, which necessarily includes the resurrection, is in vain (I Cor 15:14)
 - 3. Your faith is in vain (I Cor 15:14)
 - 4. Preachers are liars (I Cor 15:15)
 - 5. We are still in our sins (I Cor 15:17)
- I. What does the resurrection mean?
- A. God's people are no longer in their sins (I Cor 15:17)
 - B. Christ's Claims have been actualized and his future claims will likewise be actualized
 - C. As surely as Christ rose from the dead, so will we on the last day
- II. What do I gain *right now* through the resurrection?
- A. The Resurrection makes risk right (I Cor 15:30–34)
 - 1. The Living Principle of Resurrection Risk
If I think of this life only in terms of temporal human achievement and self-actualization, I would never make the sacrifices that I do. The resurrection makes my sacrifices and risks worth it.
 - B. The Resurrection channels all my ambition toward the future, not the present (Phil 3:7–11)
 - 1. Paul gave up everything that his previous life held dear for the purpose of attaining the resurrection of the dead (3:11)
 - C. Have you learned how to actualize this resurrection risk and ambition in your life?
 - 1. Resurrection risk and ambition for moms
 - 2. Resurrection risk and ambition among non-believing family members
 - 3. Resurrection risk and ambition for young people
 - 4. Resurrection risk and ambition for all Christians
- III. What does the resurrection mean for non-believers?
- A. All people will be resurrected on the last day, but not all resurrections are equal (Jn 5:28–29)
 - B. All unbeliever's works and accomplishments in this life will have been for nothing.
 - C. Gospel Call (Rom 10:9-11)

Questions for Application and Reflection:

1. What did Paul give up in order to attain to the resurrection of the dead?
2. Give some examples of things we have given up in order to attain to the resurrection of the dead?
3. In I Cor 15:32, Paul says, “What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.’”
 - a. What does he mean by “humanly speaking?”
 - b. Why was it crazy for him to endure suffering at the hands of his adversaries if the resurrection wasn’t true?
 - c. Does our holiness, that is, the consecration of our lives to God, matter if the resurrection of the dead is not true?
4. What does it mean to have resurrection risk?
5. In Phil 3:11, Paul says, “that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” What does he mean by this?
6. How do resurrection risk and ambition change how we view ourselves in this world? Specifically, our identity?
7. Give some real-life examples of how you have forgone wealth, prosperity, pleasure and/or opportunity in order to attain to the resurrection of the dead.