

INTRODUCTION

1. Turn to 1 Corinthians 15
2. Chapter 15 which is about the resurrection of Christ
 1. and the resurrection of believers
 2. and what kind of body believers they will have
3. Today we're looking at verses 29-34
 1. In this section Paul asks two more questions
 2. As if he is going back to vv.12-19
4. One question is addressing an ancient practice
 1. of baptizing for the dead
5. The other question is personal
 1. addressing the personal effects of the
 2. resurrection on his life
6. There are basically 5 areas he addresses in vv.29-34
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-34
8. As believers we are called to believe in the resurrection
9. In fact, you cannot be a Christian unless you do
10. I remind you of Romans 10:9 which says:
 1. that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord,

2. and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;
11. Salvation is based on the resurrection of Christ
12. As verses 3-4 state regarding the gospel:
 1. Jesus "died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
 2. and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day,
 3. according to the Scriptures"
13. Since that is the case,
14. Why were some questioning the resurrection?
15. Because they were unbelieving
16. As I stated earlier, Paul begins with two questions
17. The first has to do with the...

LESSON

I. BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD (v.29)

What is this ritual the Corinthians were practicing? There are more than 30 interpretations of this passage.

The plain meaning of the Greek in verse 29 is that some people are being baptized on behalf of those who have died—and if there is no resurrection, why are they doing this? (<https://www.gotquestions.org/baptism-dead.html>)

Whatever this practice was, Paul did not approve of it. Nor does the rest of Scripture.

In short, this non-biblical practice was where a living person was baptized in lieu of a person that passed away, as a means of making a public profession of faith for a person that was already deceased.

Heinrich Bullinger offers these thoughts regarding this pagan practice:

He said, "if we change the words, and read this passage as follows: "If the dead are not raised at all, why are they baptizing over the dead?" —changing the verb from being passive to active, and changing the phrase "on behalf of the dead" to "over the dead"—the passage conveys this more simple meaning, namely, that ceremony by which almost all pagans baptize by washing (that is, soaking and sprinkling with water) the bodies of the dead at burial to testify publicly that those feeble bodies, sown in the earth, will once again be resuscitated.... Hence it seems that the apostle has drawn his argument from this present ceremony of the pagans, of which, nevertheless, he does not approve. Indeed, he has demonstrated the attitude with which the Corinthians have advanced their argument, exposing their impiety. It's as if he were saying, "Are you not ashamed to deny what even pagans affirm in their burial rites?"

Commentary on 1 Corinthians 15:29. (Manetsch, Scott M., Timothy George, and David W. McNutt, eds. [1 Corinthians: New Testament](#). IXa. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2017. Print. Reformation Commentary on Scripture.)

This was an unbiblical practice among pagans

This is also the only place where it occurs in Scripture

Some cults practice this today like the Mormon Church

In their practice, individuals go to their local Mormon temple, dress appropriately for a baptism, representatively adopt the name of a person who has died, and then the Mormon is baptized in water for that deceased person. This way, the dead person has fulfilled the requirements of salvation in the afterworld and can enjoy further spiritual benefits in the spiritual realm.

<https://www.carm.org/mormonism/what-is-baptism-for-the-dead-mentioned-in-1-corinthians-1529/>

There are many problems with this view

One in particular is that no where in the Bible does it teach that after you enter into eternity can anything be changed

In other words, what you are in this life you will be in the next

If you enter eternity without Christ, you wake up in eternal torment awaiting the final judgment at the Great White Throne

If you have committed your life to Christ in this life you will enjoy eternity in heaven

What we know about baptism is...

1. Baptism is commanded (Acts 10:48)
2. Baptism illustrates repentance (Mat.3:1-10)
3. Baptism is a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom.6:4)
4. Baptism does not save (1 Peter 3:21)

II. DANGERS EVERY HOUR (vv.30-32)

1. Paul risked his life for the gospel (v.30; 2 Cor.1:8-10; 11:23-28)
2. He willingly gave his life for the Corinthians (v.31)
3. He fought with false teachers at Ephesus (v.32; Acts 19)
4. If there is no resurrection, why did he go through all this?

III. DO NOT BE DECEIVED (v.33)

1. Don't be deceived by unbelievers and their pagan practices
2. Their company corrupts good morals as well as sound teaching

Instead the Corinthians needed to...

IV. BECOME SOBER-MINDED (v.34)

1. Verse 34 is a command
2. So Paul pleads in the imperative
3. He says, "Those of you who believe in the resurrection know better, and you should be leading those who do not believe in the resurrection into a true

knowledge of God, rather than allowing their heresy and their immorality to mislead and corrupt you.”

4. The apostle spoke this to [their] shame
5. They had the truth, but they did not fully believe it and therefore did not fully follow it
6. He commands them to cease the sin they were involved in. (MacArthur, John F., Jr. [1 Corinthians](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.)
7. This is a universal attitude for all Christians not just the Corinthians (1 Thess.5:6, 8)

V. STOP SINNING (v.34)

1. By believing the lies of no resurrection
2. By keeping company with unbelievers
3. They have no knowledge of God

CONCLUSION

1. What we believe will affect how we behave
2. Since you believe in the resurrection of Christ, you are to behave accordingly
3. Peter said it this way in 1 Peter 1:13:

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
4. If we were associating with unbelievers, we can easily be influenced by their godlessness
5. 2 Corinthians 7:1 says, "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

6. If you're here today and you do not know Christ and what He has done for you, I'd love to talk with you about it after the service
7. But if you are feeling this urge to repent and turn to it, do it now as we pray
8. Let's pray
9. Lord's Supper