

**INTRODUCTION: HOPE AGAINST HOPE** (1Cor.15:58; see Rom.4:18f; 6:3-5; 8:17)

**THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE TRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST** (1Cor.15:58)

**A. THEREFORE: TRUTH & CONSEQUENCES**

1. **importance:** first things of saving faith (15:1-4; see Rom.4:25; 2Cor.5:21)
2. **certainty:** multiple, independent, faithful witnesses (15:5-11; 20-28; see Dt.19:15)
3. **alternatives:** hopelessness, lawlessness (15:12-19, 29-34)
4. **manner:** continuity & discontinuity (15:35-53)
5. **proclimax:** the victory of Christ over sin & death (15:54-57; see Lk.4:1f; see Col.2:10-15)

**B. UNITED IN HOPE: *MY BROTHERS, LOVED*** (see c.1-14!; Eph.4:16; Prov.27:6)

**C. EXHORTATION: *BECOME, BE***

1. **put on:** *settled, firm, steadfast* (see 12f; Col.1:23)
2. **put off:** *movement, shifting, changing* (see 12f; Eph.4:13,14; see Mt.7:24f)

**D. FRUIT OF DOCTRINAL STABILITY: *MUCH ENDURING GOOD WORK*** (see 16:1f,10; 2Cor.8,1f; Eph.2:10; 4:12f; Mt.26:10; 1Tm.2:10; 5:10; 6:18; 2Tm.2:21; 3:17; Tt.1:16; 2:7,14; 3:1,8,14; Hb.10:24; 1Pt.2:12 /Mt.22:37-39; Ex.20:1f)

**E. ROOT OF PRACTICAL FRUITFULNESS: *PRIOR CONVICTION OF PROMISED BLESSING***

(see Ps.90:17; Mt.6:19; Jn.5:29; 1Cor.3:8; 2Cor.5:10; 1Tm.6:17-19; Heb.6:10; Rev.14:13; see Neh.5:19; 13:14,22,31)

1. **toil:** difficult, exhausting, disappointing (see Gen.3:17-19; e.g., synod committees, family, work, etc.)
2. **empty:** pointless, fruitless, thankless, futile (see 10,14; Lk.1:53; 20:10f; Phil.2:16; eg, synod, family, work, etc)

**CONCLUSION: HOPE AGAINST HOPE!** (1Cor.15:58; see Rom.4:18f; 6:3-5; 8:17)

*Brethren, what shall we do?* (see Acts 2:37f)