

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of 1 Corinthians

Baptism for the Dead, Dying Daily, Bad Company

1 Cor. 15:29-34

Introduction

Paul's defense of the resurrection of believers (12-34)

Pragmatic arguments (29-34)

I. Baptism for the Dead (29)

A. There are at least 40 serious attempts to explain this text.

*The obvious problem is that this seems to present a “magical view of sacramentalism of the worst kind, where a religious rite, performed for someone else, can have saving efficacy.” Fee

B. Three main plausible views:

1. Vicarious baptism, uniquely practiced in Corinth

2. A peculiar phrase for water baptism

3. “for the dead” does not mean “on behalf of” but rather “on account of”
I.e. people have heard of the glorious future that Christians have (some of those things outlined in this very chapter) and they were baptized because they believed in Christ and wanted a future share like those who have died in Christ.

Schreiner, “certainty eludes us.”

Fee, “But finally we must admit that we simply do not know.”

II. Living Dangerously for the Lord Jesus Christ (30-32)

A. Why are we in danger every hour? (30)

B. I die daily (31)

C. Fighting wild beasts at Ephesus (32a)

D. Carnal conclusion (32b) Cf. Isa. 22:13



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III. Warning about bad company (33)

- A. Do not be deceived
- B. “Bad company corrupts good morals”
Prov. 13:20

IV. Exhortation and rebuke (34)

- A. Become sober-minded as you ought

- B. Stop sinning

- C. For some have no knowledge of God

- D. I speak this to your shame

Conclusion

