

correcting carnality

1 CORINTHIANS

Sermon Series Notes



"The Reality of Resurrection" (I Corinthians 15:5-34)

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I. EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST (vv.5-11).

A. Eyewitnesses

* This is not an exhaustive list of those who claimed to have seen the resurrected Christ.

* How many people saw Jesus after His resurrection?

- First to Mary Magdalene (John 20; Mark 16)
- The women returning from the tomb (Matt.28)
- Two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24; Mark 16).
- Ten gathered in the upper room (Luke 24; Jn.20)
- The Eleven (Jn.20; Mark 16)
- More than 500 at one time (I Cor.15:6)
- James (I Cor.15:7)
- Some disciples (Jn.21:1-23)
- The ascension (Acts 1)
- Many infallible proofs (Acts 1)

- John 21: 25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

* But there are still those who refuse to believe based on even so many documented eyewitness accounts

B. Crazy Critics' Ideas

* The eyewitnesses were hallucinating

* Some say Jesus never really died on the cross, and so what these eyewitnesses of the resurrection saw was really Jesus, but a Jesus who never died.

* The disciples certainly believed he was dead. They were filled with hopelessness and bewilderment after the cross. The centurion assured Pilate that he was dead (Mark 15:44-45). One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side, and blood and water

came out, indicating that the red and white blood corpuscles had separated, an indisputable medical sign of death.

* Writing in the March 21, 1986 edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, three medical doctors, including a pathologist from The Mayo Clinic, concluded: Clearly, the weight of historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to his side was inflicted and supports the traditional view that the spear, thrust between his right rib, probably perforated not only the right lung but also the pericardium and heart and thereby ensured his death. Accordingly, interpretations based on the assumptions that Jesus did not die on the cross appear to be at odds with modern medical knowledge.

* It is highly unlikely that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus would have mistakenly embalmed a living Jesus (Jn. 19:40).

* Even if everyone was wrong about Jesus being dead when he was placed in the tomb, how would a badly injured and bleeding man still be alive thirty-six hours later? Even if he did survive that cold, damp tomb, how did he three days later unwrap himself (from 75 lbs of embalming cloth!), move a two ton rock that covered his tomb, get by the elite Roman guards, then convince the scared, scattered skeptical crowds that he had triumphed over death? When they saw him in that kind of condition, instead of being convinced of His resurrection, they might have said something like this "You may be alive, but you're certainly not risen. Let's get you to a doctor!"

* Note: The overwhelming evidence suggests that Jesus really died.

* Some say that the disciples stole Jesus' dead body from the tomb and created the greatest hoax of history.

- Matt.28: 12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'"

- Matt.27: 62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.

63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'"

64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how."

66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

* They would have had to get by this Roman "guard," a four to sixteen man security force where four men at a time were placed in front of what they were guarding, while the other twelve slept in a semi circle in front of them with their heads pointed in. Every four hours they rotated shifts.

- Acts 12: 4 After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

* If the disciples stole the body, it means they were then willing to put themselves and their families through threats from the Supreme Court, beatings, imprisonment, and even death, all for a hoax. There is really very weak evidence (actually none at all) that the disciples stole the body.

* Some say the Roman or Jewish authorities stole the body
- When the disciples began to proclaim the resurrection, why didn't the authorities simply produce the body? Instead, they arrested, threatened, flogged, imprisoned, and finally killed many of Jesus' disciples.

C. The Eyewitnesses' Reluctance To Believe The Resurrection

* John 20:24-28; Mark 16: 9-14

D. The Eyewitnesses' Willingness To Suffer And Die For Their Faith

II. WHAT IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION? (vv.12-19)

* Despite the overwhelming evidence, what if it's not true?

* Our preaching is useless; Your faith is useless; We are liars; We are all still in our sins; My mother, grandmother, etc. are in hell!

* We ought to be pitied above all men - because our faith in Christ has caused us to say no to the pleasures of this world, etc. We are sacrificing for NOTHING!!

* I gave up a 3rd high school prom for my belief in the resurrection. I gave up what would have been perhaps the best parties of my life for my belief in the resurrection. I have said no repeatedly to opportunities to satisfy my fleshly desires because of my belief in the resurrection.

III. THE REALITY OF RESURRECTION (vv.20-28)

* Next week we will look in detail at the new bodies we will have after our resurrection

* This section takes us beyond Christ's resurrection to our resurrection, and on into what we call eternity.

* Prophecies yet to be fulfilled

- The Rapture of the church (I Thes.4:13-18)

- The Tribulation (Rev.4-19; Jer.30:7)

- The Second Coming of Christ (Rev.19:11-16; Acts 1; Zech.14:4).

- The Millennium (Rev.20:1-6; Isa.11:3-10; 65:20)

- New heavens and a new earth (Rev.20:7-21:5; death destroyed, God becomes "all" (v.28, 3956. pas, pas; includ. all the forms of declension; appar. a prim. word; all, any, every, the whole:--all (manner of, means) alway (-s), any (one), X daily, + ever, every (one, way), as many as, + no (-thing), X throughly, whatsoever, whole, whosoever). God will be everything to everyone.

IV. FINAL COMMENTS (vv.29-34)

A. If It's Not True, Let's Party!

* If you do not believe in the resurrection, and you are living it up, feeding your lusts and fleshly passions, GOOD FOR YOU! That is exactly what you should do - if you do not believe in the resurrection

B. Since It Is True - What Are You Doing?

* Deep inside each of us, we know that death is not the end.

- Eccl.3: 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men

- Rev.21:6-8

* Why are you hanging out with people who are not living in light of the eternity/resurrection?

* Some people were living in light of resurrection, but for whatever reason, changed direction.

- II Tim.4: 10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

* "Belief in the resurrection acts as a moral safeguard. Often, the issue at the heart of sensuality isn't moral impurity, but temporal vision remembering that there is a tomorrow, that life isn't just one big 'now,' will motivate us to live pure lives." (Swindoll, p.58)

C. What Living In Light Of Resurrection Should Do For Me

1. Change my views on death

* Phil.1: 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

2. Change my views of this present life/world

Phil.1:24, Paul's whole reason for remaining in this world was to serve others as a result of his service to Jesus Christ.

3. Change my views on the future

* No matter how bad life may get here and now, my future is glorious*

* Swindoll intro, p.56

4. Change my value system

* Heb.11: 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

* Luke 16: 13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

* The rich young ruler

* See Luke 12:13-21

* Matt.6: 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

* I John 2: 15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world.

17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

CONCLUSION

* Since Christ's resurrection is true, my resurrection will one day be a reality. Because of this truth, I must always live this present life in light of the life to come.