

Grounded in Truth – The Resurrection

S.R. 1 Cor. 15:3 - 8

4 – 9 – 2023

Introduction

- A. We are privileged and directed to remember the Resurrection of Christ “until He comes” again. The first and 21st century disciples were directed to remember Him on the first day of the week.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be **steadfast, immovable**, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
 - 2. Our hope rests firmly and securely on the triumph of the cross and in the power of the resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:4)
- B. Absolute truth is predicated upon evidence, not mere feelings or myths.
- C. Instead of remaining grounded in truth – some Corinthians were deceived.
- D. The gospel: A summary statement (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
 - 1. There is no victory in Jesus without the resurrection. (15:57)
 - 2. Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? (Rom. 10:9 – 10)

I. Eye Witnesses of the Resurrection (Acts 2:32)

- A. The witnesses of the resurrection were many.
 - 1. Luke 24:48
 - 2. Acts 1:8 apostles - official representatives – Matthias added (1:21 – 26)
 - 3. Acts 3:15
 - 4. Acts 5:32
 - 5. Acts 10:39, 41
 - 6. Acts 13:31

II. Facts of the Resurrection as Reviewed by Paul for Corinthian Believers

- A. If the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is true - historical reality – it changes everything.
 - 1. What we do. Who we are. Where we are going.
 - 2. If it is not true – hoax – myth or a colossal lie – then we who believed are most to be pitied among all people.
- B. 1 Cor. 15: 1 – 2 Paul lays out for us in a logical and systematic fashion the reason that Truth matters.

1. Real objective transcendent Truth is to be Held to and defended.
2. Can't have Christ and not have the resurrection – Lk. 24: “we had hoped”
3. Deny possibility of miracles – reject anything supernatural. (cf. Thomas Jefferson – Bible) Turbingen School – Germany – Jesus Seminar - US
4. “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing you must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic... or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” (C.S. Lewis: *Mere Christianity*)
5. Historical reality – he split time in half BC – AD. (BCE Common Era)
 - a. Many want a Jesus without any constraints upon them.
 - b. They want a Savior but not a Lord and Master.

III. Why Truth Matters (1 Cor. 15) Three Basic Arguments –

3 Realms of Reason: 1. Authority 2. History – Evidence 3. Logic - Rational

- A. Authority (15:1 – 2) “Text “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which **I preached** to you, which also **you received**, in which also **you stand**, 2 by which also **you are saved**, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.”
1. An Apostle – apostolic authority – official representative
 2. Gospel I preached to you as an apostle with the authority of an apostle (1 Cor 1:1 – 2; 4:17; 7:17; 1 Cor. 11:1)
 3. Not just a gospel you like – truth
 - a. I preached this truth
 - b. which you received – from me
 - c. In which you stand - all three of these are essentials
 4. You must stand upon the gospel: that is non – negotiable
 5. Sender – Paul Receiver – Corinthians - Message – received as true.
 6. “Unless you believed in vain”
 - a. I preached the gospel – you have to hold fast. Started out well but you must not quit (1 Cor. 10:12)
 - b. Your being saved by this gospel - only saved by the gospel if it is the gospel that I preached to you.
 - c. If you Accept everything you were taught except the resurrection – then you did not believe the truth of the good news.

- a. There is only salvation in the gospel that I preached. (cf. Gal. 1:6 – 9)
- b. If you are not grounded in this truth you can be deceived.**
- c. 1 Cor. 15: 32 – 34 “Be not deceived. Evil companions corrupt good morals.”
- d. If no resurrection – no basis for morality or hope.

B. Evidence from Historical Fact. (1 Cor. 15:3 – 8)

1. “For I delivered to you as of first importance what **I also received**, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”
2. Truth based upon historical – verifiable facts:
 - a. Luke 1:1 – 4 “Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, 3 it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; 4 so that you may know **the exact truth** about the things you have been taught.
 - b. 1 John 1:1 – 4
3. According to the **Scriptures** – (15:3 -4) death, burial and resurrection
 - a. (Acts 2; cf. Psalm 16, 132, 110)
 - b. God said it would happen and it did – just as he described.
4. Eye Witnesses (Acts 1 – 2; 3:15; 5:32 10:39, 41; 13:31)
5. 500 brethren at one time – not a hallucination – you can interview them.
6. Paul’s apostolic message was received directly from God – (Gal. 1:6 – 19)
 - a. Paul saw Jesus after he was raised from the dead (Acts 9 and 1 Cor. 9)
7. Paul’s conversion to the Christ whom he had hated and persecuted is strong evidence for the truth of the resurrection.
 - a. His conversion meant the loss of everything that formerly had value in his life.
 - b. Ph’p. 3:8 – 11
8. Claims of apostles are **falsifiable**.
 - a. People living who can say “you lied and I can prove it.” (Jewish leaders.)
 - b. Paul does not say you need to believe this because it is my truth.
 - (i) (Built upon my personal internal and changeable feelings).
 - (ii) Many say, “I just have to live “my truth.” NO
9. (1 Cor. 15: 9 – 11) Paul returns to the authority and veracity of the testimony of the apostles.
 - a. “We” preached it and you believed it. Accepted as absolute Truth.

C. Third argument: **Reasoning from Logic and Consequences.**

1. (1 Cor. 15:12 – 19) The Resurrection of the Dead – generally speaking
2. Paul has already proven by **Scriptures** - apostolic authority and Historical Testimony that Christ was raised from the dead. (1 Cor. 15:1 – 11)
3. Now Paul notes 6-7 things that must be true if there is no resurrection from the dead.
 - a. In other words: your philosophical presupposition is staring at a fact you deny.
1. IF Christ was not raised – Preaching is Vain – empty – useless.
2. Faith is vain – meaningless – object of your faith is useless
 - a. You can believe there is a chair right behind you and you go to sit down
 - b. Will it matter how much faith you have in the chair if it has been removed
 - c. Your faith is only as strong as the object it is based upon
3. We are liars – intentional or delusional (Liar or Lunatic) (v. 15)
4. We are a blaspheming liar. Claiming that God did something that He did not.
 - a. Logical step if you deny the resurrection and the preaching of it.
 - b. “Not even Christ has been raised.” (16)
5. You are still in your sins. If Christ not raised then:
6. Dead in Christ - have perished – no hope and without God
7. Most to be pitied – we are the most pitiful people on the planet

But Christ did raise, Therefore:

1. My preaching is not in vain. It is most powerful message in the world. “Beautiful feet” (Romans 10)
2. Your faith is not empty – placed your trust in the reality of the resurrection.
3. I am not a liar – truth teller
4. I am not a blaspheming liar – sharing accurate testimony of what God did.
5. You are not in your sins if you have trusted and obeyed Christ.
6. Those who have died have not perished – rather they have received their inheritance.
7. Don’t you dare pity me.

IV. Truth Matters: Truth about Jesus Death and Resurrection Matter

- A. Real – absolute – unchanging reality.
- B. The cross and the resurrection of Christ matter.
- C. 1 Peter 1:3-4
- D. Don’t you know?
 1. Romans 6:3 – 5