

GIFTS OF THE RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, "There is no resurrection of the dead"? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith. ¹⁵ Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that He raised up Christ—whom He did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. ¹⁹ If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone. ²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

- Paul gives us the good news that the resurrection of Jesus satisfies six of our deepest needs.
 - We have same needs as did the first century people.
- My prayer for us this morning is that we would all understand these six needs as fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ.
- Watch how these 6 principles unfold as we walk through the text.
 1. v. 14 *if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain,*
 2. v. 14 *...so is your faith.*
 3. v. 15 *Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that He raised up Christ—whom He did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised.*
 4. v. 17 *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.*
 5. v. 18 *Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished.*
 6. v. 19 *If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.*

- BUT let's turn the negatives around and state these 6 needs in the positive
 - Let's see what God has really done for us in raising Jesus from the dead.

BODY:

1. Our Message Is Powerful And True (v.14)

- Because Of The Resurrection - Our message is not in vain—it is full, meaningful, valid, valuable, to be accepted/believed!
 - It expresses the power of God to Salvation
 - It shines the light
 - It declares the truth
 - It speaks of that which is righteous all together
 - Its message has been delivered by God's inspiration
 - It promises are faithful and true

2. Our Faith Is Well-Founded (v.14)

- Because Of The Resurrection - Our faith is well-founded.
 - Put it more personally – Because Of The Resurrection there is someone we can absolutely trust.
 - You can count on Jesus through thick and thin.
 - He is absolutely trustworthy.
 - If you put your faith in Him, it will not be wasted or disappointed
 - He will not let you down.
 - He will always be there.
 - This need and desire for someone we can count on is met in this one who walked away from death!

The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

3. The Apostles Preached What Is True (v.15)

- Because Of The Resurrection - The apostles preached the truth.
 - They are not false witnesses about God.
 - Despite the relativism of the previous decades their word is true all the time and everywhere whether people know it or even approve of it.

- In a dark time for Israel it is said of them, *everyone did whatever seemed right to him.* Judges 17:6
 - The need for truth is a deep need of the individual's life and society.
 - Jesus came into the world to say, *I am the way, the truth, and the life.* John 14:6
 - And then He rose from the dead to validate His claim.
 - Jesus has a right to tell us what is absolutely true because in the resurrection He was proven true!
- The Apostles message – New Testament = **is confirmed true!**

4. We Are Forgiven for Our Sins (v.17)

- Because Of The Resurrection - We are forgiven of our sins.
 - If God holds our sins against us there's no hope in life/death.
 - The foundation for every blessing from God is that God will forgive us our sins.
 - Everything hangs on forgiveness.
He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.
Romans 4:25
 - By His death He paid the penalty for sins and purchased acquittal, justification, forgiveness.
 - The Resurrection was the exertion of that power to conquer death!

5. Those Who Have Fallen Asleep In Jesus Are Alive (v.18)

- Because Of The Resurrection – Believers who have died LIVE!
 - Those who have walked with God in life are very much alive with Him after death!
 - Because Christ is raised those who have fallen asleep in Him have not perished - they are alive – with a new spiritual body - They have entered into the joy of their Master.

6. We Are to Be Envied (v.19)

- Because Of The Resurrection - We are to be envied.
 - If Christ is not raised, then living for Him, doing what He says, following His will is a great delusion!

- But since He has been raised and reigns as king forever, all our obedience, love, self-denial is not just not-to-be-pitied, but is positively enviable.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.
Romans 8:18

16 Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. 17 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. 18 So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

CONCLUSION

The Apostle Paul finishes the chapter with this conclusion:

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:58

When you were born you were born into a reality. A reality that includes:

- Life and Death
- Belief in God
- Surrender to Him
- Your personal sin
- Your personal need for forgiveness through Christ
- Your call to obey God
- Death one day comes
- Eternal life becomes real in heaven or hell – as a blessing or curse!