



The Third Day, According to the Scriptures!

April 9, 2023 Resurrection Sunday!

Holy Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- Happy Resurrection Sunday! Jesus is Alive! He is Risen!
- Let us today “Rejoice in the LORD always, and again I say, Rejoice! (Php 4:4)

Thoughts on our First Corinthians:

First Corinthians was written by the Apostle Paul around 55AD, probably from Ephesus. According to Acts 18, Paul planted this church and nurtured it for 18 months. During this time, Paul “reasoned” in the synagogues each Sabbath where he encountered both rejection by the many Jews and was received by some Gentiles, resulting in the planting of the church.

Paul’s reasons for writing were two-fold:

1. There was major division in the church due to internal pressures: arrogance within the church and a lack of holiness.
2. And there was external pressure as well: cultural norms and false teachers had infiltrated the church.

So this letter is both motivational and correctional. After a brief giving of thanks in chapter one, Paul dives in...

1. In Chapter 1, he commands unity in Christ! (1 Cor 1:10-17)
2. In Chapter 2, he proclaims Christ crucified and the need for spiritual discernment. (1 Cor 2:2, 14-16)
3. In Chapter 3, the apostle addresses division and carnality in the church. (1 Cor 3:1-7)
4. In Chapter 4, he humbly but firmly reasserts his apostolic authority. (1 Cor 4:15-21)
5. In Chapter 5, he confronts sexual immorality in the church and administers discipline. (1 Cor 5:1-13)
6. In Chapter 6, he teaches on conflict resolution and sexual purity.
7. In Chapter 7, Paul reminds them of the apostolic marriage guidelines to strengthen their homes.
8. In Chapter 8, he encourages concern for those weak in the faith. (1 Cor 8:13)
9. In Chapter 9, he demonstrates servant leadership and exhorts passion for Christ and disciplined living.
10. In Chapter 10, Paul warns the church against idolatry while encouraging doing all things unto the glory of God!
11. In Chapter 11, proper individual and corporate worship is commanded.
12. In Chapter 12, a wonderful explanation of spiritual gifts in the context of individual needfulness is given...
13. And those same gifts must also be used in the context of true biblical love as taught in Chapter 13!
14. In Chapter 14, two gifts in particular are regulated (tongues and prophecy) as well as what is proper for women to do and not do in corporate worship.
15. Paul frames all this wonderful instruction in relation to the **Gospel** and the **Resurrection** in Chapter 15...
16. And issues final instructions for giving, encourages the men, and gives greetings to the saints to close out the letter in Chapter 16.

First Corinthians is an important Epistle for our day, one we would do well to study and take to heart.

Thought on our Text

William MacDonald wrote in his commentary:

“This is the great resurrection chapter. Some teachers had entered the church at Corinth, denying the possibility of bodily resurrection. They did not deny the fact of life after death, but probably suggested that we would simply be spirit beings and not have literal bodies. The apostle here gives his classic answer to these denials.”

1 Corinthians 15:1 (KJV) Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1. The Gospel was declared by Paul, and should be by us as well. Declared, proclaimed, heralded, and preached! Words, backed by a truthful life, must be used!

Isaiah 58:1 (KJV) Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Matthew 24:14 (KJV) And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

2. “The Gospel” is means “the good news” or “glad tidings.”

Luke 8:1 (KJV) And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

Romans 10:15 (KJV) And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

3. Paul personally preached this Gospel. Again, we must as well.

Romans 10:14 (KJV) How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Mark 16:15 (KJV) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

4. By God’s grace, the Gospel was received by the church at Corinth. Christ sent Paul to them...

Acts 26:18 (KJV) To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

5. A Christian’s stand is first and foremost in the Gospel. What is the Gospel?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God. He rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called, who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God's creation.

1 Corinthians 15:2 (KJV) By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

1. It is the knowledge of God's Son, received and believed by God's grace and through faith, that saves!
2. Key to the Gospel is, in context, belief in **the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!** Again from MacDonald...

"It was by the gospel of the resurrection that they had been saved—unless, of course, there was no such thing as resurrection, in which case they could not have been saved at all. The **if** in this passage does not express any doubt as to their salvation, nor does it teach that they were saved by holding fast. Rather, Paul is simply stating that if there is no such thing as resurrection, then they weren't saved at all. In other words, those who denied bodily resurrection were launching a frontal attack on the whole truth of the gospel. To Paul, the resurrection was fundamental. Without it there was no Christianity. Thus this verse is a challenge to the Corinthians to hold fast the gospel which they had received in the face of the attacks which were currently being made against it."

3. Indeed...

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 (KJV) Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:3 (KJV) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1. There is no doubt that Jesus actually died on the cross and was buried. (Matt 27:32-56; Mark 15:16-47; Luke 24:26-56; John 19)
 - "The fatal suffering of Jesus Christ is one of the most well-established facts of ancient history. Even in today's modern age of science and technology, there is a virtual consensus among New Testament scholars, both conservative and liberal, that Jesus died on the cross, that He was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, and that His death

drove His disciples to despair. The best medical minds of ancient and modern times have demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt that Christ's physical trauma was fatal."—Hank Hanegraaff

- "Nero fastened the guilt [of the burning of Rome] and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus" (Tacitus, Annals 15.44).
- "Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, (9) those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; (10) as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day." -Historian Josephus, 1st Century

2. Why did He die? For our sins!

1 John 3:4 (KJV) *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

Romans 5:12 (KJV) *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Romans 3:23-26 (KJV) *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **24** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: **25** Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; **26** To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

Romans 5:8 (KJV) *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

1 John 4:10 (KJV) *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

3. To *propitiate* means to appease via sacrifice. Christ offered His body and shed blood to appease, or satisfy, the just and holy wrath of His Father towards us and our sins!

Ephesians 5:2 (KJV) *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV) *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Hebrews 10:12 (KJV) *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

1 Peter 3:18 (KJV) *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

1 Corinthians 15:4 (KJV) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1. Let us be reminded of the truth that Jesus got up from the grave! How do we know?

- First, there is the biblical testimony of His Resurrection! (Matt 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10)
- There is also the empty tomb and the subsequent appearances of our Lord according to Scripture.

1 Corinthians 15:6-8 (KJV) After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. **7** After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. **8** And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

- Lastly, there is the transformation of the Apostles and the preaching of the faith. If His body was found, Christianity would have died. If any one of His enemies in Jerusalem could have disproved our Lord's death, resurrection, and appearances, then Christianity would have died. Would these men have been willing to die for a lie? On the contrary, hundreds of people saw the Lord ALIVE!

2. The Bible's testimony is clear:

Mark 8:31 (KJV) And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

John 2:19 (KJV) Jesus answered and said unto them, *Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*

Luke 24:1-10 (KJV) Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. **2** And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. **3** And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: **5** And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? **6** He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, **7** Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. **8** And they remembered his words, **9** And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. **10** It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

Resurrection Exhortation!

We don't serve a dead Savior. He is alive!

Hebrews 7:25 (KJV) Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

All our sins have been forgiven in Christ!

Matthew 1:21 (KJV) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Ephesians 1:7 (KJV) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Revelation 1:5-6 (KJV) And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, **6** And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Our sin debt has been paid! We are...

Colossians 2:12-15 (KJV) Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. **13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; **14** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; **15** And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

We are therefore no longer dead in our sins, but are alive as well and can walk in that life!

Ephesians 2:5-10 (KJV) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: **7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Romans 6:4-6 (KJV) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: **that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** **5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: **6** Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Final Encouragements:

1. Repent and Believe the Gospel. There is NO better news and there are NO other Saviors!
2. Love Jesus with everything you have. There is no one else more worthy of such!
3. Live joyfully and expectantly in and for Him!
4. **Live a "Third Day" life! That is, live According to the Scriptures!** Live unto the Risen Savior!
5. Remember His great love for His elect!

Romans 8:31-39 (KJV) *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Amen!