

## Sermon: 1 Cor 15:29-34 Proof Through Living

### Review:

This chapter is a defence of the essential Christian doctrine of the Resurrection of the dead.

- Paul opens his defence by pointing out that the gospel which he preaches and which they received as truth contains the resurrection of Christ as first importance (vs 1-4, 11)
- He then goes on to point out the eye witness evidence of the resurrection of Christ (vs 5-10)
- Paul then points out all the things that would be true if there was no resurrection of the dead. (12-19)
  - Even Christ would not be raised
  - Preaching is pointless
  - Faith is pointless
  - We have been misrepresenting God the father
  - You are still in your sins
  - Those who have died in faith are dead
  - We are to be pitied
- Paul then affirms that Christ has been raised and how his resurrection makes possible the hope of eternal life (vs 20-28)
  - Death is passed on through Adam, life is passed on through Christ *because* Christ is alive and he will defeat all His enemies including death
- This brings us to vs 29-43 where Paul shifts his argumentation to point things that people do because of the resurrection
  - Last week we spent our time trying to understand this very difficult statement by Paul in vs 29 “being baptized for the dead”
    - We established first what Paul was not saying- Namely that no living person can do anything, including being baptized that will have any benefit for someone who is dead.
    - I then gave two possible ways to understand what Paul was communicating
      - That it doesn’t make sense that some of you are doing this heretical practice if the dead are not raised
      - That perhaps Paul was pointing out that people were coming to saving faith in Jesus *Because of* those who had died or were facing death with resurrection hope
  - This week we will zoom out and look at some of the things Christians do because they are going to be raised from the dead one day
- Because of the resurrection:
  1. **People are Converted:** People are being baptized because of the whiteness of those who have died in christ
  2. **Christians will face Controversy:** Christians are willing to face persecution
    - a. Paul faced death every day
      - i. He is Boasting was not an arrogant boast but rather a boast “in Christ”

1. How do you boast?
  - b. He faced “wild beasts” in Ephesus
    - i. Much has been made about what Paul means here since his facing wild beasts in the arena is not recorded or mentioned anywhere else in the NT
      1. It is my understanding that there was but one way for a Roman citizen to be executed and that was by beheading
        - a. So it is unlikely that Paul would have ever faced wild animals in a pit or in the arena of gladiator combat
          - i. There is an extra biblical tradition that Paul was put into such an arena to face wild beasts and according to this legend the animals behaved like the lions in the den with Daniel - they became disinterested and did not attack
        - ii. Paul could be using “wild beasts” as a metaphor for the riot that is recorded in Acts 19 where whole city was in a uproar because Paul was preaching the gospel and saying that “gods made with hands are not gods at all Acts 19:26)
- 3. Christians Resist Carnality:** Eat and drink for tomorrow we die (vs 32)
  - a. Isaiah 22:13 Direct quote
    - i. People should have been morning over there sins, instead they were partying
  - b. Luke 12:19 Rich Fool
  - c. Ecclesiastes 2:24 what's the point of toiling under the sun if you can't enjoy it under the sun?
- 4. Christians Value Character:** (Vs 33) Bad company corrupts good character