

Final Motivation

Text : Ephesians 4: 11-16 ; I Corinthians 15: 50-58

- A. The resurrection being a foundational doctrine of Christianity we studied ;** S#1. S#2.
1. Final Proof .. to establish the resurrection as an historical fact.
 2. Final Results .. to observe some things that are true because of the resurrection,
 3. Final Hope .. to be reassured that our bodies will be resurrected just like Jesus.
 4. Final Assignment .. be reminded of the last will of Jesus for us
- I Pet. 2: 9 – But you are A chosen race, A royal priesthood, A holy nation, A S#3.
people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies
of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;** S#4.
- B. Acts 18 .. The Apostle Paul was the one who established the church in Corinth.**
1. At first Paul supported himself as a tentmaker.
 - a. He worked with Aquila and his wife Priscilla.
 - b. They became some of his most active converts. (e.g. They taught Apollas)
 2. Paul started by preaching to the Jews in the synagogue.
 - a. He was in their assembly each Sabbath teaching and persuading them,
 - b. They became contentious and asked Paul to leave,
 - c. Paul shook his garment and told them their blood was on their own heads.
 3. Though Paul left the synagogue, he only went next door to house of Titus Justus.
 - a. His main emphasis was now on converting gentiles.
 - b. Even so, the household of Crispus, the leader of the synagogue was converted.
 - c. The conversion of Crispus prompted many others to become believers.
 4. God appeared to Paul in a vision by night telling Him to stay in Corinth.
 - a. In response to the vision Paul stayed there 18 more months.
 - b. It was only when the Jews began being a problem that Paul moved on.
- S#5.
- C. I Corinthians 15 is the longest chapter in Paul's writings because of the subject.**
1. Some false teachers had come into the church and had led them astray. S#6.
**I Cor. 15:12 – Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the
dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?**
 2. Satan has used this approach in many places. He fills leadership vacuums.
**Gal. 1: 6-7 – I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called S#7.
you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another;
only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.**
 3. The Apostle is explaining the doctrine of the resurrection and its importance.

S#8.

I. I Corinthians 15 presents the doctrine of the resurrection and why it's important.**A. Vs. 1-2 ... The Apostle reminds them of the foundation of their salvation. S#9.**

1. Paul preached a message to them which they accepted. (*good news*)
2. They were saved on the basis of receiving that message.
3. They only remain saved so long as they “hold fast” to that message.

B. Vs. 3-11 ... The “Gospel” that saved them was the death, burial and resurrection

1. Jesus shed His blood to propitiate for their sins.
2. He was buried among the rich, but rose from the grave just as foretold.
3. The resurrection of Jesus validated the significance of His sacrificial death.
* *Without the resurrection the death of Jesus is like any other death.*
4. The resurrection was authenticated / confirmed by many witnesses.

C. Vs. 12-19 ... If there is no resurrection, Christianity is a false religion.

1. If there is no resurrection, Jesus is not raised from the grave.
2. If Christ is not raised, Christians are still in sin. (*faith of no value*)
3. If there is no resurrection, those who have died are just gone. (*like dog Rover*)

I Cor. 15: 19 – If we have hoped in Christ in this life only,
we are of all men most to be pitied.

D. Vs. 20-28 ... Jesus is presented as the first fruits of the resurrection.

1. The word “first fruits” { *aparchē* } indicates a beginning, more will follow.
 - a. **Rev. 1: 5** – the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth
 - b. Vs.-22 – For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive
2. The dead in Christ will rise first and then the rest before the end comes.

E. Vs. 29-34 ... The coming resurrection should affect our lifestyle.

S#10.

1. Vs. 32 ... Without the resurrection we have no motivation for righteousness.
2. Vs. 33 ... Knowing we will rise again should cause us to avoid evil influences.
3. Vs. 34 ... Anticipating the resurrection should motivate us to stop sinning.

F. Vs. 35-41 ... We are familiar with the concept of life coming from death.

1. A kernel of grain must die before it becomes a seed and produce a plant.
2. Each different kind of seed produces a plant like itself.
3. Our bodies function like a seed to produce a resurrected body.

G. Vs. 42-49 ... Our resurrected body will be the same body, but changed.

1. God designed our body for this earth so it decays as all earthy things do.
2. Our resurrected body will be designed for the spiritual realm. (*not a spirit*)
3. It will be a body that never dies ... “imperishable” designed for eternity.
* *No matter where our dwelling place may be (Heaven or Hell) it is eternal.*

H. Vs. 50-57 ... The resurrection will come at the end of time.

1. Those who are alive at the coming of the Lord will undergo a metamorphosis.
2. The dead will rise at the same time the living are being changed, then saved ascend.
I Thes. 4: 14-17 – For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **S#11.**
God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15**
For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
3. When the Lord returns and raises the dead, there will be a universal judgment. **S#12.**
Heb. 9: 27 – in as much as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

I. When this judgment occurs there will be some rejected by God.

1. Those separated from God by sin have no anticipation of good.
Eph. 2: 12-13 –... remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, **S#13.**
excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
2. **II Thes. 1: 7b-10** – ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with **S#14.**
His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed
3. The dead will all be raised and Christians will go to be with God.
 - a. Never fear death because it is a temporary condition.
 - b. We live in anticipation of eternity with God in Heaven ... *Grace by faith, not works*

II. How should I respond to this fantastic blessing ?

S#15.

- A. Vs. 58 – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

S#16.

- B. “Therefore” is the word the Apostle Paul uses to transition to the application.

1. Eph. 4: 1 – Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
2. Rom. 12: 1 – Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
3. The Apostle has just presented a cardinal doctrine of Christianity. What do we do with it ? **How** do I respond ?

S#17.

- C. Knowing we will rise to be with God we must be “steadfast, immovable.”

1. “steadfast” { *hedraios* } to sit firm in place, to not be moved, sedentary, settled
2. “immovable” { *ametakinētos* } not to be moved from its place, unmoved firmly persistent
3. Using two synonyms together is a typical Hebrew way of emphasizing.
* Like Winston Churchill’s speech : “*Never give in, never, never, never*”
4. Satan will never stop trying to lead you away from the faith, the doctrine.
5. It is the responsibility of each individual Christian and each group to develop the ability to stand firm in the faith.

Eph. 4: 11-15 – And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

S#18.

6. Our salvation depends upon our ability to remain steadfast in the faith.

I Cor. 15: 1-2 – 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.

S#19.

D. “Always” abound in the work of God.

1. Always { *pantote* } At all times, ever (consistent practice)
2. Always is a lifestyle, not an event
3. Not part-time, consistent rather than on-again off-again

E. “Abounding” in the work of the Lord

1. “abounding” { *perisseuō* } is to be over and above, overflow, to be great
2. A Christian looks for more opportunities to serve God, **not** just get by.
3. A New Testament example of this attitude is :

Acts 9: 36 – Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha;...this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. **S#20.**

4. Jesus set the example for the Christian’s.

John 9: 4 – We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **5** "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

- a. Our time on earth is limited so we must approach our service with urgency.
- b. **Matt. 5: 16** ... We are here to be lights that glorify God.

F. In the “work of the Lord”

1. The objective of the church and all who lead her is to prepare all for service.

Eph. 4: 12 – for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; **S#21.**

2. When one is saved, he is called to actively do works appointed by God.

Eph. 2: 10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

3. God has specific works that HE wants accomplished on the earth.

- a. Jesus came to do the work of the Father on the earth.

John 17: 4 – I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. **S#22.**

- b. Jesus said he was on the earth to save people.

Luke 19: 10 – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

- c. Jesus wants His followers to do the same work on the earth that He did.

John 17: 17 – Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. **18** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. **S#23.**

4. One specific work all Christians are required to do as a lifestyle.

I Pet. 2: 9 – But you are A chosen race, A royal priesthood, A holy nation.
A people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the
excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

III. We have confidence that our “toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

S#24.

- A. Clearly, our salvation is not based upon any works of righteousness.

S#25.

1. **Eph. 2: 8-9** – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that
not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works,
so that no one may boast.
2. **James 2: 14f** ... However, living faith produces godly fruit in one's life.
3. One who is convinced that his child's life is in danger, will not set idly by.

- B. We will not be slothful because we know God rewards the faithful.

1. **Heb. 6: 10** – For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love
which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered
and in still ministering to the saints. **11** And we desire that each
one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance
of hope until the end, **12** so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators
of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

S#26.

2. **Eph. 6: 8** – With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,
8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does,
this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

S#27.

3. **Gal. 6: 9** – Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we
do not grow weary.

S#28.

CONCLUSION : How should we respond to the doctrine of the resurrection ?

S#29.

- A. Never let anything or anyone shake our faith in the gospel message ... DBR

- B. Serve God like there's no tomorrow, because there may not be.

S#30.

- C. May we all face God as did the Apostle Paul :

S#31.

II Tim. 4: 7 – ... the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good
fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; **8** in the future there
is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the
righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but
also to all who have loved His appearing.

INVITATION : No servant of Christ will ever be disappointed; are you His servant?

S#32. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Ephesians 4: 11-16**

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. **14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

I Corinthians 15: 50-58

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. **54** But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. **55** " O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting?" **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; **57** but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.