

JESUS' RESURRECTION IMPACTS US NOW
THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST – PART 8
1 CORINTHIANS 15:29-34

SCRIPTURE SHOULD IMPACT A CHRISTIAN'S THINKING

1. Jesus was approached by some Sadducees and asked a question about the resurrection, of which they did **not believe**. The insincere **question** was about whose wife a certain woman would be in the resurrection (Matt. 22:23-28).
2. Jesus corrected their theology regarding **marriage** in the resurrection and proclaimed to be the **present** God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matt. 22:29-32).
3. This is a true statement by Jesus because there is **life** after **death**.
4. Scripture is not theoretical, impractical, or irrelevant – because the Sadducees denied the resurrection they could not **think** right or **live** right.

KEY THOUGHT: Scripture is to **inform** your mind to think biblically and live **godly** (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12).

I. THE EFFECTS OF DENYING THE RESURRECTION (1 COR. 15:29-32)

- A. If there was no future resurrection, why were new believers giving **testimony** to the **impact** of dead Christians who had profoundly influenced their decision to embrace Christ (1 Cor. 15:29)?
 1. This “baptism” cannot mean salvation for the dead because death **ends** any opportunity for **salvation** (Heb. 9:27).
 2. Baptism does not **save** anyone, for salvation is by **faith** alone in Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9).
- B. If there was no future resurrection, why did people become Christians and put themselves in **constant** danger (1 Cor. 15:30; Rom. 8:18)?

- C. If there was no future resurrection, why would Paul **risk** his one precious life by stirring up “**angry** citizens” like those in Ephesus (1 Cor. 15:31-32; Acts 14:23-34)?
1. Why would Paul continue to endure dangerous, life-threatening experiences if his hope was merely **human** and temporary?
 2. If this life is all there is, we should just live for **today** – “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die” (Isaiah 22:13).

KEY THOUGHT: Jesus died for man’s **sin** and knew He would be **raised** for us (Heb. 12:2).

II. THE EFFECTS OF AFFIRMING THE RESURRECTION (1 COR. 15:33-34)

- A. Affirming the Resurrection provides **incentives** both for service and for sanctification (1 Cor. 15:33).
1. The exhortation is to **guard** against substantive conversations that would impact your theology and biblical **thinking**.
 2. Heretical theology is taught through conversations and the expressing of world views which, if listened to, **erodes** biblical **values**.
- B. “Come to your **senses**” and **stop** allowing those who are not biblically-minded to influence your thinking (1 Cor. 15:34).

KEY THOUGHT: The power and hope the resurrection gives to Christians is a great incentive to live for **Jesus** and serve **others** to honor Him (Gal 2:20).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

March 20, 2011

SUNDAY: *Scripture is to inform your mind to think biblically and live godly (2 Tim. 3:16-17)!* Proverbs says, “As a man thinks, so is he” (Proverbs 23:6-8). The Bible is God-breathed, the inspired Word of God that is recorded so men, especially Christians, will know how God thinks. Scripture is to inform your mind so you can think biblically and live a God-honoring life. Jesus encountered some religious men who did not think as God did. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead and used the topic to try and trap Jesus into an unwise statement (Matt. 22:23-28). Jesus firmly corrected their thinking and presented them with the reality that He was the present God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (22:29-32). Though these men were deceased, it was a true statement because there is life after this death for those in a relationship with God. Scripture is not theoretical, impractical, or irrelevant. Scripture teaches us how to think with a biblical mindset and live as God intends. Praise God for new life through His Son. Commit to be biblical in your approach to everything in your life. ***May the Scriptures fill your life with joy, meaning, and purpose!***

MONDAY: *The salvation decision of many Christians was influenced by other believers, some of which are no longer living (1 Cor. 15:29)!* If the resurrection held no promise for people, why would some become followers of Jesus Christ if those that who had influenced them were now dead? These new believers testified how they were profoundly influenced to embrace Christ because of the promise of the resurrection. The baptism mentioned (1 Cor. 15:29) cannot mean salvation for those already dead because death ends any opportunity for salvation (Heb. 9:27). Remember, baptism does not save anyone. Salvation comes by faith alone in Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9). The Resurrection of our Lord brings hope to all believers. That hope causes believers to proclaim the truth of the Gospel for all to hear. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the meaning of eternal life for you as a believer. Ask for the discernment to know who you are to bless each day with God’s love. ***May the love of God abide in you and richly overflow from your life into the lives of others!***

TUESDAY: *Being a Christian is not the easiest road in life (1 Cor. 15:30)!* It is the resurrection that gives believers the strength and conviction to live their lives in the face of persecution (1 Cor. 15:30). The Corinthians found persecution even though there may have been no official edict from the Roman government at the time. It was the promise of the eternal life evidenced by the Resurrection of Jesus on the third day that strengthened the resolve and emboldened the faith of these early believers. They looked forward to the bodily resurrection at the second coming of Jesus and subsequently becoming Christ-like no matter the persecution and sufferings of today (Rom. 8:18). In what ways can you be bolder in your Christian faith? How can you be a blessing to others and give the credit to God? Ask for the internal strength to be bold. Pray for the discernment to identify opportunities to bless others with a meal, some words of encouragement, or an offer to share the hope that is within you. ***May the abiding in the Lord become very real to you and strengthen you to bear much fruit for the kingdom!***

WEDNESDAY: *Christians choose to invest their one precious life to serve and honor their Lord and Savior (1 Cor. 15:31-32)!* It would make little sense for a man as wise as Paul to risk his precious life to promote a movement that had no significance beyond this life (1 Cor. 15:31-32). Paul stated that he had risked his life addressing the significant issues of idolatry and false worship in Ephesus. In fact, the people had attacked him like wild beasts and were threatening to tear him apart (Acts 19:23-34). It made no sense that a highly educated man of high stature like Paul would throw that all away to promote a movement that ended with this life and was but temporary. Paul said that, if there was no resurrection and no promise of eternal life, then let's just live for today (1 Cor. 15:32; Isa. 22:13). Instead, Jesus died for us and knew that He would be raised on our behalf (Heb. 12:2). Praise God the Father for sending His Son to not only pay for sin, but to conquer death and the grave. Pledge your love and service to His kingdom in which you reside. *May hope of Christ be a burning light emanating from your life and carrying the Gospel to others in darkness!*

THURSDAY: *The Resurrection empowers Christians for service and for sanctification (1 Cor. 15:33)!* Affirming the resurrection of Jesus Christ empowers the Christian to bear fruit for the kingdom. However, the Christian must be careful of the company that he/she keeps (1 Cor. 15:33). Paul exhorts the believer to guard against involvement with those denying the Resurrection of Jesus. World views that do not include Jesus as Lord and Savior are dangerous and can erode biblical values from which all of life's decisions should be made. It is important to disassociate yourself even from those that profess Christ as Savior if they operate from any viewpoint that is not Christ-centered. Pray for your friends and acquaintances that are not promoting a great love and affection for Christ. Find ways to befriend them without remaining under their influence so you lead them back to living biblically-obedient lives. May your firm, loving stance against ungodly thinking earn you the respect of others and be used by the Holy Spirit to lead others to salvation and/or godliness. *May your steadfastness be a blessing to many today and over the course of time!*

FRIDAY: *Protect your ability to think biblically at all costs (1 Cor. 15:34)!* Paul says that many Christians can fall prey to unbiblical world views offered by associates. This is sin and must be stopped. Come to your senses! It is like being intoxicated and sobering up one's mind (1 Cor. 15:34). Protect your mind and heart at all costs, even if it means ending the closeness of a friendship in your life. Do not think that you are an exception to this biblical exhortation. Flee any association that causes you to think in an unbiblical manner. Pray for the wisdom to identify these unbiblical world views and speak out against them. Pray over your friends and acquaintances that are trapped in the lies of these false theologies. *May fear of displeasing the Lord and bringing spiritual brokenness in your relationship with the Lord keep you sober in the fight against unbiblical world views!*

SATURDAY: *The Resurrection provides the incentive to live for Jesus and serve others to honor Him (Gal. 2:20)!* Galatians 2:20 tells us that Christians have spiritually participated in the death, burial and resurrection of their Lord Jesus. They have victory over sin and death. Their old self has been crucified, and the new self has risen. The Holy Spirit indwells their life and empowers them to live for Christ. The selfless love of Christ manifested on the cross becomes their motivation for serving Him and others. Pray that this verse would describe your life fully. *May the Lord bless you and keep you as you obediently and diligently seek to serve Him!*