

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

HOW SAY SOME AMONG YOU THAT THERE IS NO RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD?

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EASTER SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-17**

1 Corinthians 15:12, Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, **how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?**

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message April 12, 2020

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. **1 Corinthians Chapter 15** is considered the Great Resurrection chapter. We must remember that the old rugged cross does make a difference and the empty tomb provides assurance that we have a home in Heaven.
- b. It is one of the most crucial chapters in the entire Bible.
- c. This chapter is extremely important in that it answers the first heresy of the church, which was the denial of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Matthew 27:64-66**, Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. **65: Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. 66: So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.**
- d. We will find that this resurrection chapter deals with the Gospel.
- e. The Gospel is defined as the death, burial, and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 4:25**, *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.* **1 Corinthians 15:1**, *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2: By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3: For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
- f. In His resurrection He gave us a sure abundant entrance into Heaven. Remember what God said to Nikodemus. **John 3:7**, *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*
- g. We must understand we stand in His righteousness. The aforementioned verse says "delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."
- h. Justification means "Just as if I have never sinned." We must remember this speaks of the soul and not the body (flesh).
- i. This resurrection was not a spiritual resurrection but was physical. **Luke 24:3,5-7**, *And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. 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.*
- j. If you look at the definition of resurrection it means the standing up of a corpse. **Galatians 1:1**, *Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)*
- k. One of these days, our bodies will be raised and changed as Jesus was also raised from the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:51**, Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be

changed, 52: In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- l. The aforementioned verse in no way, shape, or form speaks to any spiritual resurrection as some would have us to believe.
- m. **The soul is what God saves by the blood of Christ and not the flesh. The Scriptures plainly state that the soul that sinneth it shall die. This is speaking of the spiritual death, not the second death, which is eternal separation from God.** **Ezekiel 18:4**, *Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.* **20**, *The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.* **Leviticus 17:11**, *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.* **Numbers 15:28**, *And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him.* **Hebrews 10:39**, *But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*
- n. This is something we need to think about and accept the facts of Scriptures. It is the Gospel that saves. It is the soul that is atoned for and not the body. **1 John 1:9**, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* **1 John 5:1**, *We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.* **1 John 5:18**, *We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*
- o. The minute the body dies it goes to the grave and the soul goes to paradise in the third heaven based upon prior reservations of believing the record and embracing the promises that God gave of His Son. **1 John 5:11**, *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.* **12**: *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.* **John 17:3**, *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*
- p. If you are a child of God - absent from the body, present with the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:6**, *Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:* **7**: *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)* **8**: *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*
- q. If you are not a child of God, then the soul goes to a place that our Lord labels the lower parts of the earth; a place of torment awaiting the Great White Throne Judgment. **Luke 16:23**, *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.* **Revelation 20:11**, *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.* **12**: *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*
- r. Paul states that the resurrection is very much a part of the Gospel.
- s. As a matter of fact, there would be no Gospel without the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:14**, *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.*
- t. Christianity does not rest upon ideas, creeds, rituals, or ceremonies but upon actual facts.
- u. The Gospel message; our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ being raised from the dead, seen of above five hundred brethren at one time; is nothing but an absolute fact. **1 Corinthians 15:6**, *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.*
- v. As a result of these facts, we can stand on the truth that God hath raised Jesus from the dead which makes salvation possible. **Acts 13:30**, *But God raised him from the dead:* **Titus 1:2**, *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*
- w. We would conclude that the Gospel is a series of facts concerning the person and the work of Jesus Christ on behalf of God the Father as He accomplishes God's will on Earth. **2 Peter 1:17**, *For*

he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **John 17:3**, And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5: And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

x. With that introduction let's see what we can glean from God's Word today.

3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. How say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1. **1 Corinthians 15:12**, Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, **how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?**
2. As we look deep in the scriptures, we find that there were people who said there was no possibility of a resurrection.
3. Not only did they deny the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, but they also said there no such thing as a resurrection. At one point, as Paul preached the resurrection, some thought it was strange doctrine. **Acts 17:18**, Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them **Jesus, and the resurrection.**
4. We know this is totally false. Not only has Christ risen from the dead; which is the heart of the Gospel, but also there will be resurrections to follow. **1 Corinthians 15:20**, But now is **Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.**
5. The Word of God tells us that Christ was the first fruits which is what our main text is about.
6. If you have first fruits, then you will have to have second fruits.
7. There are several phases of the first resurrection. **Revelation 20:6**, Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the **first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**
8. The second resurrection has to do with the unsaved as they stand before the Great White Throne Judgment. **Revelation 20:6**, Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the **first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**
9. Paul drives home the point that the Lord Jesus Christ was in fact raised from the dead.
10. We can depend on the Preserved Word of God. We must walk in the light as He is in the light and we will know the truth. **1 John 1:7**, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. **John 8:32**, And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
11. The Bible tells us that the foundation we build upon is the Rock, which is not Peter, but the rock was Christ. **1 Corinthians 10:4**, And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and **that Rock was Christ.**
12. Several Sundays ago, we emphasized that Jesus Christ did come back from the dead in His glorified body. **Luke 24:39**, Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; **for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**
13. Paul now begins a series of "if's." I cannot help to chuckle to think that my mother was a teacher and she always told me that "if" was a crooked letter and there is something tangible and important behind it.
14. Let's search for the important features behind Paul's "if's."

b. If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen

1. **1 Corinthians 15:13**, But **if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:**
2. Notice the "if." "**if there be no resurrection.**" – We know for sure that there is and was a resurrection. **Matthew 28:6**, **He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.**
3. Paul combines two elements here and says if there was no resurrection from the dead, then is Christ not risen?
4. Paul goes on to tell us that Christ is the first fruits and later during His coming He will change our vile bodies.
5. The Word of God says in **1 Corinthians 15:52**, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and

[we shall be changed.](#)

6. If we are changed, we can then have a glorified body likened unto His glorified body and we will then have a home in Heaven.

c. If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:14**, [And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain.](#) and your faith is also vain.
2. I have stressed the fact that if we deny the bodily resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, not only is our preaching in vain but we are still in our sin. To deny the bodily resurrection is truly another gospel. **Galatians 1:8**, [But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.](#)
3. **Romans 10:17**, [So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.](#)
4. We know that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, came as a babe in a manger, and He walked the face of the earth for thirty-three years.
5. We also know He went to the cross and died for our sin. **Isaiah 53:6**, [All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.](#) **2 Corinthians 5:21**, [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.](#)
6. There is no question that He was raised again for our justification. **Romans 4:25**, [Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.](#)
7. **If Christ be not raised, we might as well not attend church or believe the Gospel because we are all lost.**

d. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God.. if so be that the dead rise not.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:15**, [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.](#)
2. Paul is still continuing the "if's." "if so be that the dead rise not."
3. If Christ be not raised, all of the apostles were liars.
4. As a matter of fact the Bible says "Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ:"
5. We know for a fact that there was an empty tomb. **Matthew 28:6**, [He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.](#)
6. The woman went to the grave and the angel said in **Luke 24:5**, [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?](#)
7. After the resurrection, the apostles were willing to die for the Gospel. **Acts 21:13**, [Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.](#)
8. We are not looking at something someone told us who did not know.
9. These apostles were eye-witnesses. These women were at the tomb very early in the morning and found it empty and the stone had been rolled away. **Mark 16:4**, [And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.](#) **Luke 24:2**, [And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.](#)
10. They knew for a fact that the tomb was empty.
11. Men and women will seldom die for a lie, but these were willing to die for the truth. **John 14:6**, [Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.](#)
12. The Bible tells us that we will know the truth and the truth will set us free. **John 8:32**, [And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.](#)

e. If Christ be not raised... ye are yet in your sins.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:16**, [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.](#)
2. I do not know how to drive the point home any plainer than the aforementioned verse makes it.
3. We are all sinners; we were born in sin and shapen in iniquity. **Psalms 51:5**, [Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.](#) This verse makes it plain that we are all lost as we enter the world. Babies that have not reach the age of accountability (we

do not know how old this child was) will go to heaven based on God's grace. It is false doctrine to conclude that babies are saved. **2 Samuel 12:23**, *But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.* Do not consider the question that David was a lost man, although he committed two horrible sins, adultery and murder. He only lost the joy of his salvation. Let's consider two verses. **1 Samuel 12:13**, *And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.* **Psalms 51:12**, *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.* David lost fellowship not a relationship with God. Keep in mind that it is the soul that gets saved and a sin committed in the flesh does not unsaved the soul. **1 John 3:9**, *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.* Therefore we conclude that once saved always saved is in fact what the bible teaches.

4. It is only by the grace of God through the plan of salvation that we are able to go to Heaven. The resurrection is a central part of that plan. **Ephesians 2:8**, *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.*
5. If Christ be not raised, we are all lost, Hell bound and there is no hope for us. **1 Corinthians 15:19**, *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*
6. Our faith is not vain and we know that we are not yet in our sin. **Psalms 103:12**, *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.* **Psalms 85:2**, *Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.* **Jeremiah 33:8**, *And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.* **Titus 2:14**, *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.* **Psalms 37:28**, *For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. My friend, do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Him, you need to come to the foot of the cross.
- c. You need to realize that millions have come but there is still room for one. There's room at the cross for you.
- d. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- e. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- f. **Romans 10:9**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

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