

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

BUT NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

EASTER SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 12, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 CORINTHIANS 15:18-28**

1 Corinthians 15:20, **But now is Christ risen from the dead.** and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Paul addresses **1 Corinthians** to the church, which was in the City of Corinth, the sin city of the Roman Empire in Paul's day.
- b. **1 Corinthians** is one of Paul's **thirteen epistles** setting forth the doctrine for the church.
- c. Paul, being the spokesman for the church, wrote it from Ephesus which is about 40 miles west of the city of Athens, around AD 57. **Romans 11:13**, *For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: **1 Timothy 2:7**, Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity. **2 Timothy 1:11**, Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. **Romans 15:16**, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.*
- d. Paul deals with the carnality and spirituality of the Corinthian Christians.
- e. With respect to spirituality, Paul deals with three things:
 1. Every believer has a gift given to him by Christ. **Ephesians 4:4-7**, *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **5**: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6**: One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. **7**: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*
 2. This gift is to be exercised in love. **1 Corinthians 13:13**, *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*
 3. He deals with the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:14**, *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*
- f. The beauty of the Christian faith is that it never views life as ending in death. **Hebrews 9:27**, *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*
- g. It looks out into eternity as taught in the Scriptures. **John 11:25-26**, *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; **26**: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*
- h. The great resurrection chapter deals with the Gospel; the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**, *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:*
- i. Frankly, without that everything else even the death of Christ is meaningless.
- j. In His death, He subtracted our sins; but in His resurrection, He gives us His righteousness, His assurance and an abundant entrance into Heaven!! **Acts 17:28**, **For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.**

- k. We can now stand in the righteousness of Christ. **Romans 4:25**, Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification. **Romans 3:22**, Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: **1 Corinthians 1:30**, But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
- l. There are some other major themes taught in **1 Corinthians**.
1. Christ alone can cleanse us of our sins and give us a right standing before God. **Acts 4:12**, **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.** **John 15:3**, **Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**
 2. Only Christians can give true love.
 3. **True love is a decision, an action, and a commitment.**
 4. God will never let us be tempted beyond our limits to endure. **1 Corinthians 10:13**, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
 5. Brothers and sisters in Christ share a oneness, a unity not made available to the world. **Psalms 133:1**, *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*
 6. Mature Christians need to limit their personal liabilities for the benefit of those who may be weaker.
 7. Believers receive gifts in order to glorify God, to work the ministry, and edify the Body of Christ in love. **Ephesians 4:11** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.* **12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.**
 8. Jesus Christ is interested in all areas of our life and is the answer to all our problems. **Colossians 2:10**, *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message April 12, 2020.

3. EIGHT POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- f. **Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.**
1. **1 Corinthians 15:18**, Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.
 2. There is a song that says, "Though millions have come there is still room for one, there is room at the cross for you."
 3. By trusting the risen Christ as Saviour we can have salvation, which gives us eternal 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.*
 4. Those who have fallen asleep, believing in the lord Jesus Christ, are not perished they are going to rise first. **Hebrews 11:13**, These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
 5. **1 Thessalonians 4:16**, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* These verses apply to those who are saved and born again from Pentecost to the rapture.
 6. Those who have fallen asleep in Christ certainly are not perished because there was a resurrection.
 7. Paul gives us another "if."
- g. **If in this life only we have hope in Christ.**
1. **1 Corinthians 15:19**, If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
 2. Christianity is not a religion, it means Christ died for our sins and rose again according to the Scriptures. **1 Corinthians 15:4**, And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

3. Christianity is not only for this life but also for the life to come. **John 17:3, And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 8, For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. 12, While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.**
4. I must emphasize that there are many religions. Religion will take you to hell. Except for Christianity, all the founders of the religious entities are dead. Only Christ is alive. **Revelation 1:18, I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**
5. True religion is talked about in **James 1:27, Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**
6. We can rejoice because we know that Christ has taken care of the sin problem for us. He has given us a brand new nature. **2 Corinthians 5:17, Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**
7. Paul stops the "what if's" and goes to the heart of the matter.
8. The heart of the matter is the truth and is reflected in the next point.

h. But now is Christ risen from the dead,

1. **1 Corinthians 15:20, But now is Christ risen from the dead,** and become the firstfruits of them that slept.
2. Christ is indeed the first fruits.
3. He was the first one who came forth with a glorified body.
4. Several Sunday's ago, we learned that this was not a spiritual resurrection but was a physical bodily resurrection.
5. The body was different; it was glorified.
6. One of these days we likewise will receive our glorified bodies. **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.**
7. In the Old Testament we find the festival of the first fruits. The first sheave of grain was brought to the Lord.
8. Since Christ is the first fruits, He is a fulfillment of that. He came back from the dead.
9. His glorified body was not subject to the laws of nature; He was able to walk through doors that were shut as He appeared to His disciples. **John 20:26, And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.**
10. The disciples were eyewitnesses of His appearance. More than five hundred brethren testified to this historical event.
11. One of the signs of being an apostle is that they had to have seen the glorified Christ. **1 Corinthians 9:1, Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? Acts 9:27, But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.**

i. For as in Adam all die,

1. **1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 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.
2. After the Festival of the first fruits came Pentecost fifty days later.
3. The fulfillment of the New Testament on the day of Pentecost is when the church actually began.
4. There could be no church without the Holy Spirit.
5. The Holy Spirit did come, but Christ was the ultimate fulfillment. **Matthew 5:17, Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. John 15:26, But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:**
6. One of these days we are going to meet Him in the air; that is the real Pentecost.

7. There are so many people looking for Pentecost to come again here on earth; the real Pentecost will take place in the air having received our glorified bodies.
8. *"For since by man came death"* – This speaks of Adam's race. **Romans 5:12**, *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:*
9. *"by man came also the resurrection of the dead."* – This speaks to the second Adam; Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:45**, *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*
10. *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."* – Those who receive the Gospel are born again. **John 3:7**, *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

j. But every man in his own order:

1. **1 Corinthians 15:23**, *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*
2. How wonderful it is to know that Christ is raised from the grave and is become the first fruits of them that slept.
3. To sleep means physical death and speaks of those who have died in Christ.
4. Mankind is truly depraved and born spiritually dead. **Psalms 51:5**, *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.* **Ezekiel 18:20**, *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.* This has reference to Adam's disobedience in the garden of Eden.
5. There is no general resurrection mentioned at all in the Bible.
6. So many of the great truths of the Bible have been botched and mixed up.
7. There are two distinct resurrections.
8. **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. If you are not saved and born again there is the second death and that is the resurrection for the unsaved. One thousand years will separate those two resurrections. **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.*
10. There is a lot of false teaching concerning prophesy.
11. One of the things we have found out by studying the Book of Revelation is you need to have a working knowledge of the other sixty-five books of the Bible in order to truly teach Revelation as God intends for it to be taught.
12. When we have the first fruits we will also have, *"afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."* – This is the first phase of the second coming of Christ where He calls His church to meet Him in the air. **1 Thessalonians 4:16**, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first* **17:** *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. The second phase will bring Him back to the Mount of Olives.* **Acts 1:11**, *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

k. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God,

1. **1 Corinthians 15:24**, *Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God,* *even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*
2. The end speaks of the end of the age.
3. There will be a great tribulation period and a millennial Kingdom here on earth after the tribulation period.
4. During the millennial reign, Satan is bound for a thousand years. **Revelation 20:2**, *And he*

[laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,](#)

5. After that he will be loosed for a little season and then he will be cast forever into the Lake of Fire. **Revelation 20:7**, *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*
6. The Lord Jesus Christ will then establish His Kingdom forever; this will be the Eternal Kingdom where there is no end. **Luke 1:33**, *And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*
7. Christ will put down all rule and all authority and all power.

i. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:26**, [The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.](#)
2. We will be glad when that takes place.
3. Death has past upon all men; we are all born spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. **Ephesians 2:1**, *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*
4. The Lord Jesus Christ is going to take care of all the problems one of these days. **1 Corinthians 15:55**, *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*
5. The victory is in the Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:57**, *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

m. Then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him...

1. **1 Corinthians 15:28**, *And when all things shall be subdued unto him, [then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him](#) that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.*
2. This verse is very key, as a matter of fact it says in no uncertain terms that the Son also himself shall be subject unto him, which is God that God may be all in all.
3. We know there is a Trinity. The three persons of the Trinity are: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. **1 John 5:7**, *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*
4. We know there is a Trinity. The three persons of the Trinity are: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
5. At one-point God has put all things under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. He has committed all judgment unto Him. **John 5:22**, *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*
7. He is the executor of it all. He not only executed the plan of salvation but also judgment at the Judgment Seat of Christ and at the Great White Throne Judgment. **1 Corinthians 15:27**, *For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.*
8. He has the responsibility of putting down all rebellion. When this is done and everything is put under His feet, then God will be all in all.
9. The Trinity is all one, all the same and all different. **1 John 5:7**, *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and [these three are one.](#)*
10. Now we know that God is all in all.

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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