

DON'T BE DECEIVED (Part 10)

“...about the Glorious Resurrection”

INTRO: Come to final teaching in series, “Don’t Be Deceived!” It’s a command with a warning. Jesus, James, and Paul (18 of 27 NT books) warn us about nine specific areas to avoid Satan’s lies and deception. Reviewing... series has been fascinating and helpful (available on YouTube). In this final area we remain in Paul’s first letter to Christians in Corinth.

TODAY: Don’t be deceived about the glorious truth of the Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:33-34). Book summary: Chs. 1-6 acknowledging reports about Divisions and Disorders. Chs. 7-16 answering questions about subjects... Ch. 15 is doctrinal and answers questions about death and the Resurrection (Jesus’, theirs’, and ours’). These Corinthian Christians had been transformed by the power of the gospel (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Remember, they were Greeks who didn’t believe in the resurrection of the dead. In Athens they laughed at Paul (Acts 17:32). Most Greeks saw the human body as a prison and death was a welcomed deliverance from its bondage. There was a great battle in the church over the doctrinal and practical implications of the resurrection. Paul takes it head-on. In vv.1-28 he established the reality of the Resurrection... Now in v.29-34 he addresses the power and effect of the truth of resurrection. Paul argues, don’t be deceived (led astray), Christ’s glorious resurrection should motivate us in several ways as a Christian. Some powerful motivations are lost if there is no resurrection.

I. SALVATION AND EVANGELISM (v.29)

- A. One of the most powerful incentives and practical implications of the resurrection is lost if there is no resurrection. If no resurrection then salvation is not a possibility. One reason people get saved is the hope of the resurrection (Jn. 11:24-25). Death and the grave are not the end.
- B. Problematic—if there is no resurrection, why baptize for the dead? Proxy Baptism? (Mormons). Though hard to understand, we know this: Salvation is a personal matter that each must decide for himself. Plus, baptism doesn’t save a living person much less a dead person! Two powerful reasons to come to Christ: (1) Hope in death (2) Hope of reunion. People become Christians and witnesses because they anticipate resurrection (Jn. 11:25-26).

- C. If no resurrection, then evangelism isn’t a necessity—no hope to share (1 Pet. 3:15).

II. SUFFERING AND SERVICE (vv. 30-32)

- A. If there is no resurrection, why put yourself in danger, much less suffer? Paul’s life was constantly in danger (Acts 5:40; Stephen; 8:1; 12:1-3; 14:19; 2 Cor. 11:23-28). Christians then (and now) are often persecuted, even killed for their faith. Paul’s logic is plain: No incentive to suffer, if there’s no eternity. Why not live it up? If no resurrection, we are fools to suffer (2 Cor. 1:8-10).
- B. The hope of resurrection make today’s trials and sufferings bearable.

III. SANCTIFICATION AND CHRISTLIKENESS (vv. 33-34)

- A. If there’s no resurrection, why serve, grow, and become more like Christ?
- B. Remember, the Greeks believed there is no resurrection. Beliefs drive our behaviors. Wrong beliefs produce wrong behaviors. Bad doctrine corrupts our lifestyle. Don’t hang around people (even in the church) who believe wrong in the essentials (salvation, inerrancy,). One of the reasons I live the way I do is because I know one day I will stand before my Lord and give an account. Confidence in the resurrection draws your heart to godliness and Christlikeness (v.34a). Paul’s advice? Wake-up and stop sinning!

CONC: The resurrection has many implications and incentives. If there is no resurrection, then there is no hope in death (no reason to become a Christian), the motivation to serve or suffer for Christ, and no need to live a godly life (no accountability). BUT, there is a resurrection for everyone (Jn. 5:28-29). Let no one deceive you.