

1 Corinthians

A Letter to the Church in Corinth

A Dysfunctional Church

- Divided
- Disorderly
- Depraved
- Digressed

Recap

1 Cor 12

UNITY



1 Cor 13

LOVE



1 Cor 14

EDIFICATION



1 Corinthians 15

HOPE



The Resurrection of Christ:

Lynchpin of
our faith





Sermon Title:

What if there is no Resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:1-34

I want to remind you..

“Now, my brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise you have believed in vain” V1-2

Problems in the Church

Believing

- There is no resurrection (V12)
- Proxy baptism for the dead (V29)

Living

- Free living (V32-33)

Digressed

Like a ship
tossed by winds
of false
teachings and
influenced by
the lifestyles of
the world



A Malay Proverb

“Sesat di hujung jalan,
balik the pangkal jalan”



Back to the Gospel

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures” V3-4

**STARTING
POINT**



What is the Gospel in a Nutshell?

- Christ died for our sins according to scriptures
- He was buried
- He was raised on the third day according to the scripture



What evidence is there that Jesus rose from the dead?

“...and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the twelve. After that, he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of them are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then, he appeared to James, then to all the apostles”
V4-7

A “Made-up” Story?

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God

Acts 1:1-3

He was taken before their very eyes

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:9-11

The Apostles' Martyrdom

“After Jesus’ death, the disciples endured persecution, and a number of them experienced martyrdom. The strength of their conviction indicates that they were not just claiming Jesus has appeared to them after rising from the dead. They really believed it”

The Resurrection of Jesus by a Historian, Michael Licona

He appeared to Paul..

“and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed. V9-11

Abnormally born? Underserving because I persecuted the church..

“Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them into prison”.

Acts 8:3

A Transformed Militant

“By the grace of God, I am what I am and his grace on me was not without an effect” V10

From an attacker to a sufferer

“I will show him how much he must suffer for my name”.

Acts 9:16, God said to Ananias

I worked harder than all of them

“I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and being exposed to death again and again. Five times I received forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in an open sea. I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

The Grace of God.. through of the gospel

V10b Yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

“Comfy Christianity” is preached today

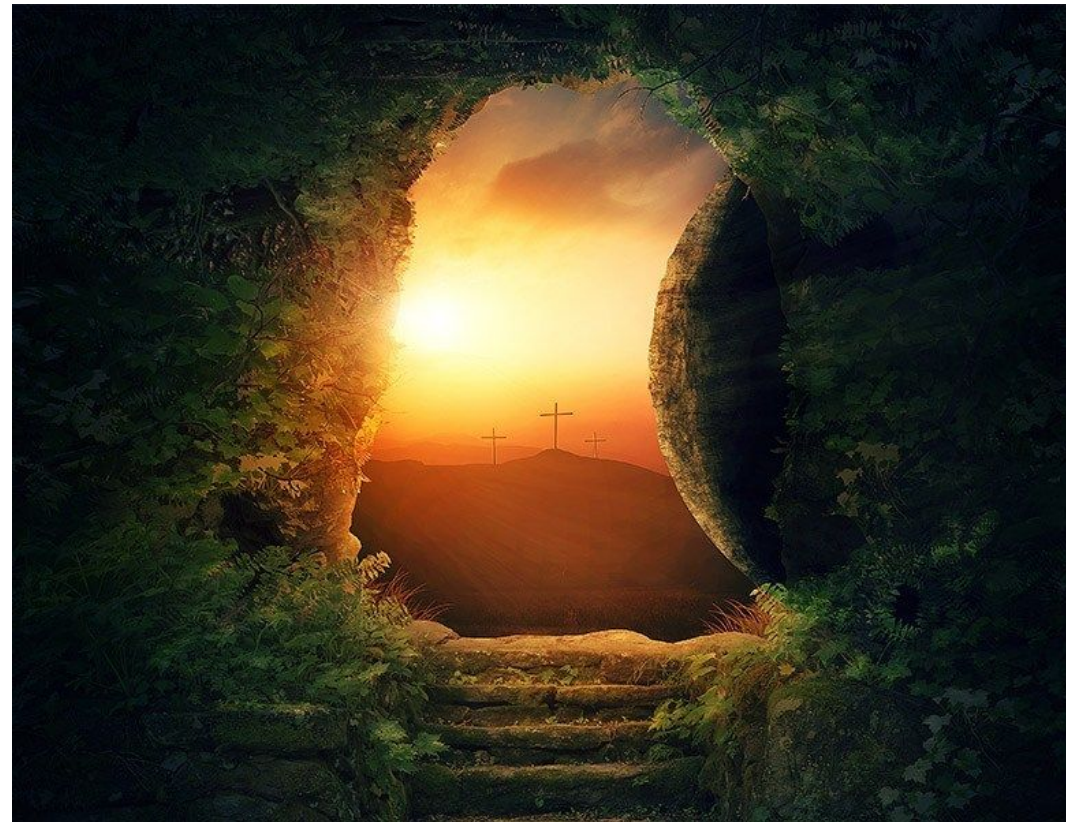
- *A form of false teaching*
- *Unbiblical*
- *Misleading*
- *A threat to the Church*

Following Jesus is far from comfortable and convenient!!
(Luke 14)

V11 This is what we preach, and this is what you believe.

The only Gospel

- Christ died for our sins
- He was buried
- He was raised on the third day



***V12 Why do some of you say there is no
resurrection of the dead?***

V13-19 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

If there is no resurrection

- Our preaching is useless (empty)
- Our faith is useless (baseless)
- We become false witnesses (liars)
- We are still in our sins
- Those who are fallen asleep (died) in Christ are (still) lost
- We are to be most pitied.



V20. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep

Jewish Festival of Firstfruits symbolizes Christ's Resurrection



V21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive

V23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all

V23 But each in turn.... (there is an order)

- *Christ's Resurrection -> Firstfruits V23a*
- *Christ's Return -> when He comes V23b*
- *The Resurrection of the dead -> those who belong to him V23c*
- *The Millennium and Armageddon – He must reign until he puts his enemies under his feet V25*
- *The Final Judgment – the last enemy is destroyed V26*
- *Our Final Hope - All things made subject to God that he may be in all V28*

It is like a new day
dawning...



If there is no resurrection...

V29 Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?

If there is no resurrection...

*V30 ... why do we endanger ourselves every hour?
31 I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I
boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought
wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human
hopes, what have I gained?*

If there is no resurrection...

V32 “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

V33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

V34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

If there is resurrection...

How will we live differently?