

# 1 Cor 15 - The Resurrection - Three Questions

Have you believed in vain? - idea of **failure**); idly, that is, without reason (or **effect**)

1Co 15:1-58 ESV Now I would remind you, brothers, of the **gospel I preached** to you, which you **received**, in which you **stand**, 2 and by which *you are being saved*, **if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you believed in vain.** 3 For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ **died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that **he was buried**, that he was **raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

**The GOSPEL is good news - it is the power of God for salvation**

- Rom 1:16 ESV For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation **to everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**It must be PREACHED, heard and believed - this is what is meant by "RECEIVED"**

- Rom 10:13-17 ESV For "*everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*" 14 How then will they **call** on him in whom they have not **believed**? And how are they to **believe** in him of whom they have never **heard**? And how are they to **hear** without someone **preaching**?

**You must STAND or continue in it - you are being saved "if you hold fast to the word"**

- Col 1:22-23 ESV he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 ***if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope*** of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

**And so the process of salvation is being worked in you**

To believe in **VAIN** (through the idea of **failure**); idly, that is, without reason (or **effect**)

**Have you HEARD it?** (2 billion have never heard? But what about you, if you HAVE heard)

**Have you RECEIVED It?** (have you been open or responsive to someone preaching to you)

**Are you STANDING in it?** (are you continuing in it)

**Only if you HOLD FAST to it will the process of salvation be completed in you**

Is your hope ONLY IN THIS LIFE?

12 Now if **Christ is proclaimed as raised** from the dead, how can **some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?** 13 **But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.** 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 **And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.** 18 Then **those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.** 19 **If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

**If there is no resurrection everything we believe in, and preach, and live for is worthless  
If we have hope in this life only we are of all people to be most pitied  
There is something more...He has placed eternity in our hearts -**

### **Our Life on earth is a vapor**

- Jas 4:14 ESV ... What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

### **70 years and there is sorrow**

- Psa 90:10 ESV The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

### **His promise is ETERNAL LIFE**

- Joh 3:16 ESV "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

### **With my eyes I shall see him**

- Job 19:25-27 ESV For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. 26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, 27 whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

### **Came to remove fear of dying**

- Heb 2:14-15 ESV Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

### Does your life reflect belief in the resurrection?

29 Otherwise, what do people mean by being **baptized on behalf of the dead**? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? 30 **Why are we in danger every hour?** 31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32 **What do I gain** if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, **"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."** 33 ***Do not be deceived:*** "Bad company ruins good morals." 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

**Knowing this enabled Paul to endure suffering** Rom 8:18 ESV For I consider that the sufferings of this **present** time are not worth comparing with the glory **that is to be revealed to us.**

**Knowing this enabled enables us to have hope even when someone we love has died** 1Th 4:13 ESV But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve **as others do who have no hope.**

**Knowing this can help us overcome fear of death** Heb 2:14-15 ESV Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and **deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.**

- **Vs 29 Why are we baptized (REGARDING the dead)?**...we are baptized into death - with HOPE OF A RESURRECTION
  - Baptized (*on behalf of the dead*) - the word could be translated as REGARDING the dead
    - Rom 6:3-5 ESV Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were **buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**
- **Vs 30-31 Why do we give our lives** to that which has the potential of killing us (as martyrs)?
- **Vs 32 What do I gain** if (as some have done and died) I fought the beasts at Ephesus
- **Vs 32 Why not live a life of sin if there is no resurrection** :Eat Drink and be Merry - because it doesn't matter -

### **BUT IT DOES MATTER**

Vs 33 - He gives an answer...**Don't be deceived**...bad company, wake up from your drunken stupor, stop sinning - **If we live with this philosophy we have no knowledge of God**

### Live Life in Light of Eternity

- 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be **steadfast, immovable**, always **abounding** in the work of the Lord, knowing that ***in the Lord your labor is not in vain.***

### **Summary**

1. Have you believed in vain?
  - a. Has someone preached to you?
  - b. Have you received it/rejected it?
  - c. Are you standing in it today?
  
2. Do you have hope ONLY in this life?
  
3. Does your life reflect belief in the resurrection?
  - a. In terms of your decisions
  - b. In terms of your commitments
  - c. In terms of your hope and endurance