

September 4–10. 1 Corinthians 14–16: “God Is Not the Author of Confusion, but of Peace”

The Resurrection

Recall that last week we discussed how the saints in Corinth were struggling with some of the basic principles of the gospel. It seems that some of the members in Corinth were arguing that Christ could not have been resurrected

Disbelief in the resurrection was inconceivable to Paul based on logic, evidence, and revelation

1Cor 15:3-8

[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:

[5] And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

[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.

[7] After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

[8] And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

What does Paul present as evidence that Christ was resurrected?

(he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present)

Imagine living in a time when most of those who witnessed the resurrection of Christ could stand up in a meeting and personally testify of these events.

Howard W. Hunter

“Paul indicates in these opening words that his knowledge came to him by revelation from God, not from man....

“Paul was saying that he accepted the testimony of those who had seen him, and if there was doubt in the minds of the saints of Corinth, they could verify these facts from living persons. Then follows this significant statement: ‘And last of all he was seen of me also, as one born out of due time.’

“Thus Paul adds his personal witness, referring to his experience on the way to Damascus.... His dramatic change and conversion is used in his argument as the final point to prove the actual resurrection of Jesus. Paul was anxious that the saints would not only believe, but should never have the least doubt as to this basic fact upon which eternal life hinges.” (CR, April 1969)

1Cor 15:12-22,29

[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?

[13] But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

[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.

[18] Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

[19] If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

[20] But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

[21] 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.

[29] Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?

What are some points Paul uses to argue that it makes total sense that Christ was resurrected?

(if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen
we are found false witnesses of God
if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain
why are they then baptized for the dead)

Paul H. Dunn

“That the resurrection was central to the early Christian message cannot be doubted. Writing to the Corinthians, Paul said, ‘if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain.’ Read in its context, it is clear that Paul is not trying to prove the resurrection of Christ in this statement. He is here appealing to the one thing that all Christians accepted in order to prove another point, namely, that because of his resurrection Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior; and through the redemptive mission of Jesus, as the Christ, as the Savior, man's own immortality and eternal life were assured. This was the gospel. This was the ‘good news.’ This was the faith of early Christianity.” (CR, April 1969)

What do you think Paul meant by, “if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”?

Spencer W. Kimball

"Today is just a grain of sand in the Sahara of eternity. We have also a hope in Christ for the eternity that lies ahead; otherwise, as Paul said, we would be 'of all men most miserable.'"

'How great would be our sorrow—and justly so—if there were no resurrection! How miserable we would be if there were no hope of life eternal! If our hope of salvation and eternal reward should fade away, we would certainly be more miserable than those who never had such an expectancy.' (CR, Oct. 1978)

John Taylor

"Were it not [for the resurrection], it would be of very little importance what our struggles were, or what we had to do within this world. We would feel, as Paul philosophically describes it, 'If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.' In other words, if in this world only we have hope, let us seize upon any and every opportunity presented to us and enjoy life, mingle with and join in the giddy strife of the world, and glide along with the stream, for our days are but a span, as a shadow they pass away and we are no more." (JD, 18:306)

If you don't have a testimony of Christ's resurrection then it makes sense to just "eat, drink, and be merry"

1Cor 15:30-32

[30] And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?

[31] I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

[32] If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

JST 1Cor 15:31

I protest unto you the resurrection of the dead; and this is my rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord daily, though I die.

What do you think Paul means when he says that he is willing to "stand... In jeopardy every hour"?

Carlos E. Asay

"The real issue is, 'If a man die, shall he live again?' (Job 14:14). Will the grave seal our fate forever? Or is there a resurrection and another sphere of existence awaiting our souls?

"Those who believe that the grave is man's final destiny live without hope of a better world and are inclined to embrace that fatalistic approach, 'Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die'. This approach often leads to wanton experimentation, immoral conduct, and all the other behaviors that reap misery and remorse of conscience.

"Whereas, those who believe in a life after death are much more inclined to lead purposeful lives. Belief in a resurrection and related truths encourages one to obey the commandments, repent of sins, serve others, and do the

other things that bring joy and happiness both here and hereafter." (CR, April 1994)

Paul reminds us that Jesus' resurrection has removed the sting of death and that our labor on the gospel is not in vain

1Cor 15:55-58

[54] So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

[55] O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

[56] The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

[57] But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

[58] Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

According to Paul, what is the sting of death?

(sting of death is sin)

Bruce R. McConkie

"Death can be comforting and sweet and precious or it can thrust upon us all the agonies and sulphurous burnings of an endless hell. And we—each of us individually—make the choice as to which it shall be." (CR, Oct. 1976)

How is the sting of death overcome?

(victory through our Lord Jesus Christ)

Gordon B. Hinckley

"The abject sorrow that comes with death, the bereavement that follows the passing of a loved one are mitigated only by the certainty of the Resurrection of the Son of God that first Easter morning.

"What meaning would life have without the reality of immortality? Otherwise life would become only a dismal journey of 'getting and spending,' only to end in utter and hopeless oblivion.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Cor 15:55).

"The pain of death is swallowed up in the peace of eternal life. Of all the events of the chronicles of humanity, none is of such consequence as this." (CR, April 1996)

Paul makes it clear that when we are resurrected it will be with an incorruptible body

1Cor 15:48-53

48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

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 sound of the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

What do you think Paul means by, “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God “?

(as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly
we shall also bear the image of the heavenly)

Charles W. Penrose

“When the resurrection day shall dawn, the righteous... will come forth and stand erect again upon the earth in their own bodies, every part and particle restored to its proper part, making a whole and perfect frame; not a natural body, but a spiritual body; not a corruptible body, but an incorruptible body... purified and quickened by the power of God. And they will stand upon their feet again and enter into the presence of the Father, and be made like him. They will be in his perfect image and in his perfect likeness.” (JD, 23:156)

Paul teaches about the 3 degrees of glory

1Cor 15:40-44

[40] There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

[41] There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

[42] So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

[43] It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

[44] It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

JST v40: Also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial, and bodies telestial; but the glory of the celestial, one; and the terrestrial, another; and the telestial, another.

What do you think Paul means when he says our bodies are “sown in weakness” but they will be “raised in power”?

Brigham Young

“Those who attain to the blessing of the first or celestial resurrection will be pure and holy, and perfect in body. Every man and woman that reaches to this unspeakable attainment will be as beautiful as the angels that surround the throne of God. If you can, by faithfulness in this life, obtain the right to come up in the morning of the resurrection, you... will be free from sin and from the consequences and power of sin. This body “is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption” (JD, 10:24)