

The Gospel Versus Philosophy (1 Cor 15)

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Introduction: There is an ever present danger of those who would mix the gospel with the philosophies of men.

- A. Years ago Martin Broadwell conducted a class on teaching and defined a dual goal of teaching others: You must erase the false concepts of the past while teaching the gospel to them.
 - 1. The Corinthians had been influenced greatly by a Greek philosophy that claimed the soul was a prisoner of the body. The body was viewed as evil. In this philosophy the idea of a resurrection was disdained.
 - 2. Many of the Greeks at Mars Hill mocked the resurrection. (**Acts 17:32**)
- B. Even with our best efforts we have those who have been truly converted but still have certain teachings that have yet to be erased. What should we do?
 - 1. If we fail to constantly be filling those within the church with God's word, then our neglect will bring bad fruits in time.
 - 2. However we must show a patience that will allow these Christians to "study their way out" of these concepts.
 - 3. Let us see how Paul worked with this infant church with these problems.

I. Build From the Basics (15:1-12)

- A. Paul reminds them how they became Christians. (**15:1-2**)
 - 1. We all need to remember how we started. (**2 Pet 1:9, 13-15**)
 - 2. The Corinthians were taking a position that was denying everything they had done to become Christians. Some today do the same.
 - 3. We must hold onto the foundation we have received. How do we do this? God's foundation can be tested.
- B. The Resurrection has great proofs. (**15:3-12**)
 - 1. "According to the scriptures", that is Old Testament prophecies!
 - a. Death - (**Isa 53:5; Psa 22:1, 14-19**)
 - b. Burial - (**Isa 53:9**)
 - c. Resurrection - (**Isa 53:10**)
 - 2. Eyewitness Testimony (**Acts 1:8, 21-22; 2:32**)
 - a. Are these men credible? They knew Paul! Paul was not looking to believe in Jesus when the Lord appeared to him. (**1 Cor 15:30-32**)
 - b. Any man can test these witnesses, have you?
 - 3. Paul considered his ability to preach the gospel a great display of the grace of God. (**15:10**) His work for the Lord was a privilege, not an obligation.

II. What if there is no Resurrection? (15:13-19)

- A. Some fail to understand the implications of removing their foundation.
 - 1. Christ is not who He claimed to be. (**15:12-13; Rom 1:3-4**)
 - 2. The Apostles have preached that which is false. (**15:14**)
 - 3. The faith of those who believed this preaching is empty. (**15:14**)

4. The Apostles are liars. **(15:15)**
5. There is no forgiveness in Christ. **(15:16-17)**
6. Those who have sacrificed for Christ and died have done so in vain. **(15:18)**
7. The Christian life does not make sense. **(15:19; 1 John 3:1-3)**

B. Christians must learn to reason with consistency!

1. If we could see the implications of modern day theories we would reject them out of hand. (Ex. Premillennialism)
2. Sadly some Christians have removed themselves from this foundation to where they have “forgotten they were forgiven from their past sins.”

III. What are the implications of the Resurrection? (15:20-34)

A. Our resurrection is assured. **(15:20-23; 2 Cor 4:13-14; Acts 17:30-31)**

1. The day after the sabbath of the Passover a sheaf of barley (earliest grain to ripen) was waved as firstfruits before the Lord. **(Lev 23:9-14)**
2. We will one day be in that harvest.

B. The Reign of Christ over His Kingdom will end. **(15:24-29)**

1. The enemy of Death will be subdued. **(15:26, 29; Heb 2:14-15)**
2. How do you view death?

D. We must watch our associates. **(15:30-34)**

1. How could associated cause us to deny the resurrection? It is gradual.
2. Once they gain your acceptance they chip away at your faith one step at a time. You could in time become a scoffer. **(Psa 1:1-2)**

IV. Questions Concerning the Resurrection (15:35-58)

A. Some thought that if any question remained unanswered then what God has said will go away. **(15:35)**

1. The Sadducees thought like this. **(Mark 12:23-24)**
2. God will give us sufficient evidence to believe, but He does not answer every question! **(John 20:30-31)**

B. What kind of body will we have? **(15:36-44)**

1. There are examples of this in nature.
2. We will have a glorious body. **(15:42-44)**

C. God has an order to His work. **(15:45-49)**

1. This is true in many things God has done, type-antitype.
2. We will be like Christ. **(Phil 3:20-21)**

D. We cannot be glorified without a change in our bodies. **(15:50-53)**

E. Our final end will be one of victory! **(15:54-58)**

1. Why would one want to give this victory away? **(Heb 10:35)**
2. Will you respond in working for the Lord? **(15:58)**

Conclusion: What does the resurrection of Christ mean to you?

- A. This is a foundation that will hold under any tests.
- B. Some need to build upon this foundation.