

## THE IF-THENS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014 - MCC Chapel

### I. 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 & 54-55

A. Quotes by Charles Spurgeon, Timothy Keller, and Pheme Perkins...

B. Do any of you remember *Baghdad Bob*, the infamous Iraqi Information Minister under Saddam Hussein? (Share quotes) I hope when I preach today, I don't come off like Baghdad Bob--someone's whose words are so hard to grasp they cannot be taken seriously or to heart. Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and all of its implications. I believe the Word of God is completely trustworthy, including the accounts of Jesus' resurrection... If they are not, we're in trouble...

C. 1 Corinthians 15 is the Resurrection Chapter in the Bible. In verses 12-20 Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, lays out the "If-Then" implications if Christ was not raised from the dead. The Apostle Paul, who originally opposed Christ, who was then apprehended by Him, and who suffered dearly and was beheaded for proclamation of the Gospel, was most definitely not a Baghdad Bob...

1) V12-13 "But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, (then) how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised." (Quotes by Adrian Rogers and Billy Graham.)

2) V14-15 "And if Christ has not been raised, (then) our preaching is useless (vain) and so is your faith. 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." (Quote by D.L. Moody)

3) V16 "For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either." (Quote by Sam Morris)

4) V17-19 "And if Christ has not been raised, (then) your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, (then) we are of all people most to be pitied."

5) V20 "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." He is risen! He is risen indeed!

D. The resurrection of Jesus tells us plenty...

1) Jesus was indeed God the Son--He was precisely Who He said He was...

2) Jesus propitiatory sacrifice for sin was found acceptable... Payment for your sins and mine was made and found acceptable... It is finished--paid in full! (Quotes by R.A. Torrey and Martin Lloyd Jones...)

3) Jesus resurrection brings with it the promise of our own resurrections... (*It's why most Christians bury bodies rather than spread ashes. Trust me, God will have no problem raising up bones or ashes on that promised Day. One method just happens to tell the story more demonstratively...*)

E. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 54-55 (NIV) is what I share at each graveside service and these words will take us home today: "The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body..." "When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

\* Close with Prayer... \* Benediction Verse - 1 Peter 1:3-5...

### Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

#### 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (NIV)

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 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. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

#### Quote by Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"Come, see the place where the Lord lay," with joy and gladness. He does not lie there now. Weep, when ye see the tomb of Christ, but rejoice because it is empty. Thy sin slew Him, but His divinity raised Him up. Thy guilt hath

murdered Him, but His righteousness hath restored Him. Oh! He hath burst the bonds of death, He hath ungirt the cerements of the tomb, and hath come out more than conqueror, crushing death beneath His feet. Rejoice, O Christian, for He is not there--He is risen."

**Quote by Timothy Keller**

"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that He said; if He didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what He said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not He rose from the dead." - *The Reason For God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*.

**Quote by PHEME PERKINS**

"Ghosts, apparitions, and various psychological hallucinations may do a lot of things, but they don't fire up the charcoal grill and cook fish for breakfast."

**Quote by Adrian Rogers**

"The resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian faith; without it, there would be no Christianity. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other world religions."

**Quote by Billy Graham**

"The entire plan for the future has its key in the resurrection."

**Quote by D.L. Moody**

"The resurrection is the keystone of the arch on which our faith is supported. If Christ has not risen, we must impeach all those witnesses for lying. If Christ has not risen, we have no proof that the crucifixion of Jesus differed from that of the two thieves who suffered with Him. If Christ has not risen, it is impossible to believe His atoning death was accepted."

**Quote by Sam Morris**

"The tomb of Christ is famous because of what it DOES NOT CONTAIN."

**Quote by R. A. Torrey**

"I look at the cross of Christ and I know that atonement has been made for my sins; I look at the open sepulcher and the risen and ascended Lord, and I know that the atonement has been accepted."

- R.A. Torrey quoted by James Boice in his *Expositional Commentary on Romans* (Rom. 4:25) page 498. Original quotation from, *The Bible and Its Christ*, by R.A. Torrey, 1904-1906, page 107-108.

**Quote by D. Martin Lloyd-Jones**

"The resurrection is the proclamation of the fact that God is fully and completely satisfied with the work that His Son did upon the cross."

- Romans: An Exposition of Chapters 3:20-4:25, by Lloyd-Jones, Page 244.

**1 Corinthians 15:42-44 & 54-55 (NIV)**

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body..." "When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

**1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)**

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

**Edifying Video Clips**

"Come Awake!" by IgniterMedia

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn2a73B0uB0>

Justification by Faith Alone - John Piper

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru6e\\_IPdIFE&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru6e_IPdIFE&feature=related)

"How Can You Refuse Him Now" by Brooke Fraser

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slgKcJDjWvk>

**The Blood Moon Theory DEBUNKED (2014-2015) - Chris White**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kA2-5z2zI>

**Four Blood Moons: It's Called Lunacy for a Reason - Wade Burleson**

<http://www.wadeburleson.org/2014/03/four-blood-moons-they-call-it-lunacy.html>

**Baghdad Bob :-)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrXhxmQJSS0>

### **Bonus Stuff**

#### **Quote by R. A. Torrey**

"Gospel preachers nowadays preach the gospel of the Crucifixion, the Apostles preached the gospel of the Resurrection as well. (*2 Tim. 2:8: "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead, according to my gospel."*) The Crucifixion loses its meaning without the Resurrection. Without the Resurrection the death of Christ was only the heroic death of a noble martyr; with the Resurrection it is the atoning death of the Son of God. It shows that death to be of sufficient value to cover our sins, for it was the sacrifice of the Son of God."

- Torrey, R. A. *What The Bible Teaches* (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1898-1993) p. 177.

#### **Quote by Dorothy L. Sayers**

"Perhaps [the critics are right and] the drama is played out now and Jesus is safely dead and buried. Perhaps. It is ironical and entertaining to consider that at least once in the world's history those words might have been said with complete conviction, and that was on the eve of the Resurrection."

- Dorothy L. Sayers, *The Whimsical Christian: 18 Essays*.

#### **Quote by John Calvin**

"The cross of Christ only triumphs in the breast of believers over the devil and the flesh, sin and sinners, when their eyes are directed to the power of His Resurrection."

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

#### **Quote by Martin Luther**

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf of springtime."

#### **Quote by Peter Marshall**

"The resurrection never becomes a fact of experience until the risen Lord lives in the heart of the believer."

#### **Quote by Watchman Nee**

"Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection."

#### **Quote by H.A. Ironside**

"We are not preaching the Gospel of a dead Christ, but of a living Christ who sits exalted at the Father's right hand, and is living to save all who put their trust in Him. That is why those of us who really know the Gospel never have any crucifixes around our churches or in our homes. The crucifix represents a dead Christ hanging languid on a cross of shame. But we are not pointing men to a dead Christ; we are preaching a living Christ. He lives exalted at God's right hand, and He *"saves to the uttermost all who come to God by Him."*

#### **Quote by Lee Strobel**

"I went to a psychologist friend and said if 500 people claimed to see Jesus after he died, it was just a hallucination. He said hallucinations are an individual event. If 500 people have the same hallucination, that's a bigger miracle than the resurrection."