

## **The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians**

### **Sermon Notes**

#### **How Faith in Our Future Resurrection Changes Our Present Behavior**

(1 Corinthians 15:29-34)

##### **How faith in our resurrection shapes our current behavior.**

"Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? Why are we also in danger every hour? I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE." (1 Cor. 15:29-32)

##### **Why faith in our resurrection should shape our current behavior.**

"Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame." (1 Cor. 15:33-34)

##### **One example of how believing we will live forever should shape our behavior now**

"Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

"And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This {very} night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

"And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! And which of you by worrying can add a {single} hour to his life's span? If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is {alive} today and

tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith! And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.” (Luke 12:13-31)

“Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Luke 12:33-34)

### **For Further Thought and Discussion**

#### **Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week’s sermon? What didn’t you understand?
2. In what ways do you behave like you will be resurrected?

#### **Going Deeper**

3. Please read 1 Cor. 15:29-34. Paul is speaking to people who believe in Christ’s resurrection but do not believe that Christians will be raised. How does Paul demonstrate that Christians believe that they will be raised with Christ?
4. According to vs. 33-34, why is it crucial that we believe that we will be raised?
5. Why is it necessary for us to believe the truth before we can behave in light of that truth?
6. One way living for eternity should shape the way we live is the way we approach money. How does Jesus illustrate this in Luke 12:13-31? Why did God call the wealthy farmer a fool?
7. Do you treat money as an evil to avoid, a treasure to attain or as a stewardship to faithfully use for Christ? Why?

#### **Application**

What is one thing you will apply from this discussion?