

The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

July 2nd, 2023

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1 Corinthians 15:12-28 – Resurrection Faith: Fact or Fiction?

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20)

1. Christ's Resurrection in History (vv. 12-19, 20)

2. Christ's Resurrection in His Story (vv. 20-28)

For Further Thought and Discussion:**Getting Started:**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper

2. Read verse 12. What did some of the Corinthians believe concerning the resurrection? What cultural factors may have led them to this conclusion?
3. According to Paul, what logically follows from denying the future resurrection (see vv. 13-19)? Why is Christ's resurrection inextricably tied to ours, such that to deny one is to deny the other (v. 13; see vv. 20-23)?
4. Paul calls Christ the "*firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*" (v. 20; see also v. 23). How does this metaphor help us understand the significance of Christ's resurrection (see Leviticus 23:9-14). According to Paul, what is humanity's trajectory in Adam? How does Christ's resurrection place us on a new trajectory (see vv. 20-22)?
5. In this passage, Paul quotes from a number of Old Testament passages (Psalm 8:6 in vv. 27-28; Psalm 110:1 in v. 25; see also Genesis 1:26-28). How does Christ's resurrection fulfill God's original plan for humanity, and help us make sense of the entire biblical story?

Application:

6. Jeff noted that the resurrection gives us a reason to believe that God has acted within history. Why is it critical for our faith to have a historical basis? What happens when this is forgotten or denied?
7. Jeff noted that the resurrection is the turning point of God's story. Why do we need a larger story to live in? How does the resurrection give us a larger narrative to help make sense of our lives? How is it superior to other narratives we might construct for ourselves?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?