

BECOMING THE CHURCH

The Greatest, Most Ignored Event in History (1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Romans 3:9-18)

Unclear to clear. Algebra equations; geometry theorems; Gerunds or verbals = Hazy mtns clear, to see outlines

The Jews did not understand the need for their promised Messiah to *become* the very sacrifice for all Israel, for all the world, to atone perfectly (once for all) for *all* sin, and be resurrected from death to prove His sinless, spotless, perfect and acceptable sacrifice as God's Son, both Man & God in the flesh. = Hard

(This passage gives great hope in the **Person** of God (sovereignty) & the **Plan** of God (redemption for the world) = They are all tied together in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the plan of GOD! This is GOOD NEWS for a dying world, a hopeless world, a confused world – watching your life, watching the Church. This needs to be our message – the very gospel lived out daily in our lives!!! *Is it? Do you believe it? Are you convinced?*

MAIN POINT: The hope of all the world is tied to Jesus' resurrection from the grave. Christianity pivots on this truth/fact. If Jesus Christ has not been raised from the grave, there is no eternal hope, no eternal life. Just death = THIS IS God's plan!! NOTHING Matters more. Not a more important truth to know, to embrace, to live, to share

This matters!! The Church has to get this right: Our sin, our brokenness, decay & destruction on this earth are real. ***SIN is the cause.** =Mankind's two greatest problems: **SIN & DEATH.** God has the answer in one historic event: **=The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

READ 1 Cor. 15:16-28 *What is Paul teaching the Church in this passage? =**Reality of Sin. Death. LIFE in Jesus**

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised [i.e. if Resurrection is not possible, if God is not all-powerful enough to raise Jesus from the grave], then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ [the dead] have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ only in this life, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ **BUT** the fact is, **Christ has been raised from the dead**, the first fruits of those who are asleep. (life after death)

*******The MOST pivotal fact in human history. This truth changes EVERYTHING!!!!=Resurrection of Jesus.**

²¹ For since by a man death *came* (into this world), by a man (Jesus) also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

=This is crucial for YOU, for the Church to UNDERSTAND how serious this statement is: This is critical!!!!

-In Adam (as our **federal head**), sin came upon this earth. (Sin was already present in the Universe with Lucifer's pride, rebellion, & fall) – but though God created a universe where sin (rebellion) was possible & where Adam had the capacity to sin as a “free moral agent” (i.e. to freely choose other than God's will), God did not make Adam sin, God was not the author of sin. = Adam chose *on his own* (uncoerced =freely) to rebel against God and choose flesh. Adam chose of His own free will as a free creature to sin against God, God's Word, & God's Plan for him.

- **So, what is SIN?** Sin is the act of breaking God's moral law =(acting contrary to God's perfect, righteous nature)

Augustine (5th cent.) defined sin as "any word, deed, or desire in opposition to the eternal law of God"

-1 John 3:4 “Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”= failing to act in accord. w/ God's nature

*If God has called every human to love, serve, walk in Rel. w/God =to sin is to err, to fall away, go astray, to rebel.

The Greek (*hamartia*) – Lit. translation of 1382 Wycliffe Middle English “synne” = to miss or Not to hit the target

- There are sins of **Commission** = willful rebellion against God/Law & Sins of **Omission** =failing to do X (Ja. 4:17)

James 2:10 “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

***READ Romans 3:9-18**

- IN Adam, because he was the first of the created race of humans -because of Adam's sin =ALL humanity is born into a sinful state (Original Sin). = Adam represents ALL humanity as our covering as the HEAD of the race.

1. **Imputed Sin** (Original Sin)= at conception God credits every member of the human race the responsibility & penalty for Adam's sin (Romans 5:12; 18-19; Vs. 22)

2. **Inherent Sin** (Sin Nature) – Every member of humanity inherits a sinful capacity which causes/leads them to commit personal acts of sin and rebellion against God and God's Word (Romans 6:6; 7:17-18; Eph. 4:22)

3. **Personal Sin** (Active, Willful Sin) – Each person freely and willfully chooses to disobey God and sin against God's nature and Word (rebellion) through which each person becomes guilty of their own sin to face God's judgment

(Mark 7:20-23; Romans 6:12-13; 2 Cor. 10:5; James 3:5-6) ... **SO, what does this mean for us?**

What is the nature and consequence of SIN in our lives?

A. Every human has a **bent** (a resolve/fixation) toward sin in our own lives (i.e. we desire self/flesh vs. spirit/God);
B. Not only are bent toward sin, we are **depraved** of righteousness. We are not, in and of ourselves, **holy**.
C. In our depraved state, we are not only bent toward sin, we willfully, freely, & actively **choose** sin in our own lives. *No one forces us to sin.* It is our heart's desire to rebel against God and, like Lucifer, make ourselves out to be our own God. We want to call the shots. We want to define what is sin or not, what is good or not. We want to be god!
D. Because we are born with a bent toward sin, and because we are depraved and without natural, inherent righteousness, and because we willfully choose sin of our own freewill, we are then already **guilty** of sin in our life.
E. And if we are already guilty of sin in our lives, left to our own wills and devices, then we are spiritually **dead** creatures until God intervenes in our lives.
F. And if we are already feely sinful, guilty, and spiritually dead creatures from birth, then we stand already **condemned** creatures in God's sight according to His holy and righteous nature – because each of us own Adam's sin nature in our life. = **This is serious. Deadly serious.** Eternally serious. **That's why Jesus had to DIE for all sin!!!**

²² For as in Adam all die, so also in \cup Christ all will be made alive. Since sin was imputed upon humanity through Adam's sinfulness, *conversely* salvation & God's righteousness is imputed upon all who trust in Christ - 2 Cor. 5:21 "God made Jesus who knew no sin to become sin on our behalf, so that we (who knew NO righteousness) might become the very righteousness of God through Jesus." = IMPUTATION of Christ's righteousness to us. *Grt exchange*

Here is why this is so crucial: **We cannot be saved until we know we need a Savior.** We have to agree we r sinners. -1 Jn 1:8 "If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourself and the truth is not in us." We must understand that we are spiritually lost, and spiritually dead without Jesus Christ intervening in our life to save us/rescue us from death -L.A. a 30yr old woman refused to leave burning apt. "shut up, this is my apt. kept rocking." Explosion took her.14y

*The world has worked overtime (under the invisible influence of satan) to indoctrinate vulnerable that **Everyone is OK; That we are all basically "good" people; that there is no inherent sinful nature in people;** that heaven exists in some form (however you want it to be...a heaven of "your" making – a heaven without a Righteous, Holy God that is a consuming fire) – that there is no hell, and that everyone eventually makes it to their own heaven, 'all roads lead to heaven' = They believe that the Church is Frivolous, innocuous & (there is moral goodness apart from God). The world rejects the idea of SIN, of lostness, of the need for a Savior. = **Self-help realization/Nirvana**

THIS is a **LIE** from the "Father of Lies" (John 8:44). 1 Cor. 1:18 "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God."

The Bible teaches clearly that all people are born with a sin nature, born into sin, & like Adam they make free and willful choices to actively sin; Bible is clear: everyone is already sinful, guilty, spiritually dead, & condemned.

This is BAD NEWS!!! This is NOT popular with the world. They Fight against it! = **This is why the Good NEWS is so important.** = We must be convinced, changed, and live this message out – we must SHARE it clearly & **w/love!**

Vs. 23: But each (one's resurrection) in his own order: Christ the first fruits (Jesus' resurrection & ascension), after that those who are Christ's at His coming (Rapture 1Thess. 4:13-18), ²⁴ then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to our God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. (End of all time, consummation of all things (Rev. 20, the Tribulation saints are raised, Millenia, All dead are raised to judgment)

Vs. 25: For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ **The last enemy that will be abolished is death.** For the Believer in Christ, we not only not fear being slaves to sin (now we are FREE in Christ), but we are not to fear death. Jesus conquered death. **The death of death through the death of Christ!**

MAIN POINT: The hope of all the world is tied to Jesus' resurrection from the grave. Christianity pivots on this truth/fact. Does this affect your life in any meaningful way?

APPLICATION:

-Sin is real. Destruction/brokenness is real. DEATH is real. These are real-life problems. SIN & DEATH

-Jesus' death and atonement for sin is also **REAL**. His resurrection from the dead is REAL. = HOPE is real because God's sovereignty is real and His plans, purposes, and promises for your life are very, very real!

- This truth matters when you are sinned against. When you are wounded, hurt, disappointed, exp. Loss. – The gospel matters. There is forgiveness for you, & power for you to forgive. Power to heal & have meaningful life now!

-For those who are sick, for those who are near death, for those who have lost loved ones ... THIS MATTERS. =HOPE

-How does Christ Resurrection from the dead, His conquering of SIN & Death affect your life today? Tomorrow?

Community Group Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the Biblical authors and translators used and continued to use the word “sin” when describing falling short of God’s glory? What does a “sin” literally mean in English? What is the best sport analogy?
2. Why is 1 Cor. 15 such an important Bible passage (chapter), perhaps the most important in the New Testament?
3. What is the difference in being deprived versus being depraved? As in, can someone who is emptied of something claim that they can still access it?
4. How would you describe the doctrine of depravity to a lost friend? How does Romans 3:9-18 help?
5. Why do so many Christians fear death, or the process of dying, if Christ promises eternal life the minute we breathe our last breath on this earth? Consider John 11:25