

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty

1 Corinthians 15:29-34 – Implications of unbelief in the resurrection

January 29, 2025

- I. Baptizing for the dead useless without resurrection
 - This is an activity that was likely happening in the Corinthian church—Paul notes it but does not say good or bad about it—just that doing it is pointless without the resurrection of people from the dead
 - o Paul is using this as an illustration not setting doctrine

- II. Apostles suffering useless without resurrection
 - Paul and the apostles suffered greatly because of teaching the resurrection

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NKJV) *For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,*
 - The wild beast of Ephesus is likely the antagonistic spirit of the Ephesian people and government since Paul was a Roman citizen and they were not allowed to be thrown to the lions by law. (Acts 19:23-41)
 - To show futility of spreading gospel without a resurrection Paul quotes Epicurean motto—"Eat and drink for tomorrow we may die"

- III. Warnings—come to your senses
 - a. Do not be deceived by lies and half-truths

 - b. Awake to righteousness (Rom. 13:11-12; Eph 5:14; Tit. 2:11-14)
 - This is a word that means we have been in a stupor, we have been half-awake and sleepy and it is time to quit it!

Romans 13:11-12 (NKJV) *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

c. Stop sinning (Psa. 4:3-4; 119:11; Rom. 6:11-13; 13:13-14; Eph. 5:15-18; 1 Pet. 4:1-3)

- In order to stop something one has to be engaged in doing it—Paul is telling the Corinthian church to stop sinning.

Romans 6:11-13 (NKJV) *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

d. Know God (some do not have a knowledge of God) (1 Thess. 4:3-5; Heb. 5:11-14; 1 Pet. 2:13-16)

- In the NT, it is not merely an intellectual ignorance but a moral defect or fault,

a willful ignorance or blindness. The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament.

1 Peter 2:15-16 (NKJV) *For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.*

IV. Challenge from Acts—repent (turn from sin) (Acts 2:37-39, 3:17-21, 8:20-23, 17:30-31, 26:19-20)

Acts 3:17-21 (NKJV) [Peter to leaders] *Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

- Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of course, direction or actions in one's life
- Are there areas in your life, in our life as a congregation or in my life where we need to change our minds, come into agreement with Holy Scripture?
 - o I pray God reveal them to us and that we have the courage to make the changes needed.
 - o The time is short before the Lord's return and none of us knows how much time we have left to respond.
- God is calling—are we listening