

We Believe in an Afterlife the Resurrection of the Body

1 CORINTHIANS 15

Cov Pres

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

8 April A.D. 2012

"RESURRECTION LABOR" IS NOT IN VAIN, BUT EXPANDS THE GOSPEL'S MASSIVE, TRANSFORMING WORK.

Introduction: A.

Palm Sunday—Mark 11:1-26:

- 1/ The King Coming to His Temple (Malachi 3:1-12)
 - 2a/ The cursing of the Israel/the fig tree which had only the appearance of fruit.
- 2b/ The Cleansing of the Temple: a den of robbers (Jer 7:2-11) not a house of prayer for the nations (Isa 56:1-8)
 - 2c/ The withering of the cursed fig tree & promise of power to remove mountains in the way of God's mission (even the mountain of the Temple—Titus & the Roman legions in A.D. 70).

Every valley shall be exalted & every hill made low!

No sacrifices since; they are not needed since God's Prophet/King/Priest sacrificed himself for our sin.

B. What things are of first importance re: the Gospel? The ultimate exaltation of our King!

1 Cor 15:1-2:

15:1 The Gospel you believe is something preached: you hear it, whether by a person directly or through some media—the Scripture itself, or a summary in printed, audio, or video form.

15:1 The Gospel is something you personally receive.

15:2 The Gospel is not merely where you begin, but also where you stand/hold fast: believing the gospel is no rash, empty religious decision, but knowing and being known by a resurrected person, Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:3-11

15:3 The Gospel is Christ-centered: you don't have the gospel if your faith is in a vague God (theism)—or gods who are part of the material world (pantheism, animism, spiritism). Jesus Christ, him crucified for our sins and then resurrected!

15:3-4 The Gospel is God-centered/Theological: it is according to God's plan (according to God's scriptures) that all this occurred in this way and at this time.

15:3-4 The Gospel is Biblical: *you cannot separate it from the Word of God breathed out, written and illuminated by the Spirit.*

15:5-11 The Gospel is Apostolic: *more than 500 witnesses, but the focus is on the apostles to whom Christ promised the Spirit to give us the Word.*

Note that this also means **the gospel is historical:** *it doesn't take place in a vague world of ideas.*

15:7-11 The gospel is well displayed only in personal, self-humiliation: *Paul, Peter and we demonstrate not pride but a worth restored only by loving, redemptive grace.*

15:10 Gospel grace & humility lead to labor: *not to earn anything but hearts of grace spread the grace of a resurrected Christ.*

1 Cor 15:20-28

15:24-28 The Gospel is powerfully political: *though contested it is advancing until Christ is victorious over all and all are resurrected unto either eternal life or eternal judgment.*

1 Cor 15:35, 42-49

15:44 The Gospel Resurrection is BODILY not immaterial: *the terms "natural" and "spiritual" refer to the source of the life of the body not whether or not the body can be touched and felt. Natural: Greek=psukikos, pertaining to life & breath v. Spiritual: Greek=pneumatikos, pertaining to the Spirit.* The contrast is the source of the life: first creation life or new life in/from Christ.

1 Cor 15:50-58

15.58 The Resurrection is a call to abounding work: *this chapter comes at the end of a book that repeatedly shows how the gospel rightly works out in the massive transformation of attitudes, morals, relationships and cultural interactions.*