

WHEN YOU SEE JESUS

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. After Jesus arose from the dead... the Bible records that He appeared to several people.

II. WHEN PEOPLE SAW JESUS AFTER HIS RESURRECTION THEY WERE AMAZED-

- a. Many of those who saw Jesus after He arose from the dead... had seen Him die in the cross.
- b. There is no doubt that Jesus died on the cross... the Romans... who were experts when it came to inflicting death by crucifixion... would have never taken Jesus off the cross... if He were not dead.
- c. Through the years... some have put forth what is called the “swoon theory”... to deny that Jesus actually died on the cross.
- d. The swoon theory says that Jesus did not really die on the cross... the theory says that Jesus just passed out or swooned from His injuries.
- e. Later in the coolness of the tomb in which His body had been laid ... Jesus came too... and He either freed Himself or was rescued from the tomb by His followers ... and over time Jesus recovered.
- f. According to this theory... Jesus then went into hiding... and the “legend” of His resurrection...was spread by His followers.
- g. Nothing in the gospel accounts... and nothing in the historical accounts of the time... give any credence to the so-called swoon theory ... or any other alternate theory of what happened on the cross of Jesus Christ.
- h. The reality is... Jesus of Nazareth died on the cross.

- i. For any who might want to believe in the swoon theory... or in any alternate theory of what happened to Jesus on the cross...I will make a deal with you.
- j. Let us strip the clothes off of your back... let us tie you to a post... and then let us beat you unmercifully with a whip embedded with pieces of bone and metal... until the skin on your back and legs is shredded... exposing muscles, tendons and bone.
- k. Then let us place a 200 hundred pound beam of wood on your back and make you carry it... barefoot... for a couple of miles over a rough and ragged road... to the top of a steep hill.
- l. Then let us take three huge metal spikes and let us nail your hands and feet to a wooden cross...then let us lift the cross and drop one end of it ...just as roughly as we can...into a hole... suspending you above the ground... hanging on the cross by your hands and feet.
- m. Then let us keep you on the cross for six hours... as your body... experiences pain and trauma like you cannot imagine.
- n. Then after six hours...let us thrust a 10 inch spear head into your side ... slicing up into your heart.
- o. Then let us take your body off the cross... let us wrap your body from head to toe in a spice soaked heavy woolen cloth ... let us place you in a tomb carved out of rock... let us cover the opening of that tomb with a massive rock ... and then let us see if you survive that and wake up.
- p. No... my friend... Jesus Christ died on that cross... but on the third day after He had died and His body had been placed in a tomb... Jesus arose from the dead... and those who saw Him... those who knew that He had died on the cross... were amazed that He was alive.
- q. By the way... the resurrection of Jesus was a physical resurrection.

- r. The body of Jesus that was placed in the grave... was the same body that arose from the dead.
- s. But when Jesus arose from the dead... His body had been cleansed and purified from all that He had gone through... and His body ... was changed and glorified.
- t. That is exactly what is going to happen to those who believe in Christ ... when our bodies are raised from the dead.
- u. The first person to see Jesus after He arose from the grave was Mary Magdalene... and she was amazed... then other women who followed Jesus saw Him... and they were amazed.
- v. Then Peter and the other disciples saw Jesus... and they were amazed.
- w. Then two of His followers saw Jesus on the road to Emmaus ... and they were amazed.
- x. Then 500 followers of Jesus saw the resurrected Lord at one time as a group... and they were amazed.
- y. For forty days after Jesus arose from the dead ... He meet with His disciples... He talked with them... He ate with them ... He taught them... fellowshiped with them... laughed with them... encouraged them ... and then before their eyes...He ascended into Heaven ...and they were all amazed...they were amazed until the day they died!
- z. Later Saul of Tarsus saw Jesus on the road to Damascus... and he was amazed... John the Apostle saw Jesus on the isle of Patmos... and he was amazed.
- aa. On this Easter Sunday... I want to tell you something even more amazing ... every person who will ever live... will see Jesus ... and that includes you and me... and when we see Jesus...we will be amazed.

(Amazed)

III. WHEN BELIEVERS SEE JESUS IT WILL BE GLORIOUS-

- a. The first time a believer see Jesus... will be after they die.
- b. *John 14:2-3 (NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*
- c. 43 years ago I gave my life to Jesus... I believed in Him as my Savior ...and I surrendered to Him as the Lord of my life.
- d. Since that time... I have studied about Jesus... I have prayed to Jesus ... I have worshipped Jesus... I have loved Jesus... I have sang about Jesus ... I have proclaimed His Name... I have shared Him with others ... I have sought His will for my life.
- e. But one thing I have never done... I have never seen Jesus... but one day I will.
- f. One day when I close my eyes for the last time in this world... and I open my eyes for the first time in Heaven... for the first time in my life... I will see Jesus... the same Jesus those first disciples saw.
- g. I wonder what I will do when I see Jesus for the first time?...Will I dance for Jesus... Or in awe of Him will I be still... Will I stand in His presence... Or to my knees will I fall... Will I sing hallelujah... Or will I be able to speak at all?... I can only imagine what I will do when I see Jesus.
- h. Listen child of God... whatever pain and heartbreak you experience in this world... whatever suffering or sacrifice you might experience in this world living for Christ and serving Him... will all fade away forever... when you see the face of Jesus for the first time.
- i. Believers will also see Jesus... at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- j. When all is said and done in this world... every believer will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ ... and the Lord will judge the difference our life in this world made for Him.

- k. The decision at the Judgment Seat of Christ... will not be our eternal destiny... that was decided the moment we believed in Christ.
- l. Decided at the Judgment Seat of Christ... will be the rewards we will receive in Heaven based on our faithfulness and obedience to Christ in this world.
- m. The greatest reward any believer will receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ ... is to hear Jesus say... “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”
- n. The line in the poem is true... “Only one life, twill soon be past... Only what’s done for Christ will last.”
- o. The Bible says that for all eternity... believers will see, worship, serve and fellowship with Jesus... in the Heavenly home that He has prepared for those who trust in Him.
- p. *Revelation 22:3-4 (NKJV) “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.”*

(Amazing... Glorious)

IV. WHEN UNBELIEVERS SEE JESUS IT WILL BE IN JUDGMENT-

- a. The decision a person makes concerning Jesus Christ means everything in this world... and in the next.
- b. I know that it is Easter... I know that this is a special day...but it is not right for me or any preacher... no matter what the day is... to sugar coat the disastrous decision to ignore the gospel... and not receive Jesus Christ as one’s Savior and Lord.
- c. Those who choose not to trust in Christ... will also see Jesus one day ... they will see Him at a place the Bible calls the Great White Throne Judgment.

- d. *Revelation 20:11-15 (NLT) “And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life... And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.”*
- e. At the Great White Throne Judgment... every person who died without receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior... *anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life... will stand before the One they rejected.*
- f. Decided at the Great White Throne... will not be a person’s eternal destiny... that was decided the moment a person died without turning to Christ and trusting in Him... decided at the Great White Throne will be the degree of punishment an unbeliever will experience in hell.
- g. You can argue all you want to about the reality of hell...the fairness of hell... or the “whatever” about hell.
- h. But the same Bible that teaches about Heaven... also teaches about the reality of Hell... and the Bible says that those who die without Christ go to hell for all eternity ... and one day they will stand before the One they rejected.
- i. Not to believe in Jesus... not to trust in Jesus... is not a harmless offense against God.
- j. To reject Christ is the worst sin a person can possibly commit... and it is the only sin that condemns a person to hell.
- k. *John 3:18 “Anyone who believes in Jesus is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.”*

- l. It is not an overstatement to say that rejecting Christ...neglecting Christ... ignoring Christ... refusing Christ... is to tantamount to spitting in the face of God.
- m. To reject Christ is to reject God's desire for a relationship with us... it is to reject His offer of reconciliation with us.
- n. To reject Christ... is to devalue the sacrifice that God has made on our behalf.
- o. Those who reject God's offer of salvation through Christ... are guilty of treating the death and sacrifice of the Son of God on their behalf... as if it were meaningless and of no value.
- p. *Hebrews 10:29 (NKJV) "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"*
- q. The person who refuses to trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins... has done nothing less than treat the sacrifice of Christ as worthless.
- r. They have declared the blood of Christ shed on their behalf as unclean ... and having no value for them.
- s. And they have insulted the Holy Spirit of God... who continually pleads with them to trust in Christ.
- t. Not believing in Jesus is not a minor offense... it is tantamount to rejecting God... and declaring the death of His Son to be worthless.
- u. To reject Christ is to reject the only way... that your sins can be forgiven and you can be saved from an eternity in hell.

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. God is a God of love... but God is not *only* a God of love... He is also a God who is holy and righteous.
- b. If you ask the question... “How can a God of love send anyone to hell?” ... you must also ask the question... “How can a holy and righteous God who hates sin allow an unforgiven sinner to go to Heaven?”
- c. It was at the cross of Jesus Christ... that God’s love for sinners... and His holy and righteous wrath against our sin meet.
- d. At the cross... as Jesus took our sins upon Himself... God poured out the full measure of His wrath for our sins upon His only begotten Son... and it was at the cross that God’s love for us provided a way that we might be forgiven and saved from the penalty of our sin.
- e. The cross proves that God does not want anyone to go to hell... 2 *Peter 3:9 (NKJV)* “(God) is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
- f. *Ezekiel 18:23 (NLT)* “Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign LORD. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live.”
- g. God’s love for you... and God’s desire to save you from a lost life and a lost eternity is what Easter is all about.
- h. Jesus is alive... and one day you will see Him... you will see the same Jesus that came out of the grave on that first Easter morning.
- i. And when you see Him... He will either be your Savior and Friend ... or your Judge... the choice is yours.