

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, PART 3

HIS RESURRECTION AND OURS—WHAT THAT SHOULD MEAN TO US



So the graveyards of man become the seed plots of resurrection, and the cemeteries of the people of God become the resurrection fields of their promised perfection.

(Erich Sauer)

1. There is one saving word—the word of the cross, 1 Corinthians 1:18.

- (1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV) **For the word of the cross** is folly to those who are perishing, but **to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

2. We only actually preach the saving word when we preach the main point of the saving word—Christ crucified, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25.

- (1 Corinthians 1:22–25 ESV) For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 **but we preach Christ crucified**, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

A. We preach Christ crucified because Christ dying for our sins is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

B. So if we drift away from that main point then we are no longer preaching the power and wisdom of God.

3. So we must determine to allow nothing to move us away from the saving word of the gospel—Jesus Christ and him crucified, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

- (1 Corinthians 2:1–6 ESV) And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 **For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.** 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,** 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

4. This saving word is the gospel that Paul and the apostles preached, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

- (1 Corinthians 15:1–4 ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel I preached to you**, which you received, in which you stand, 2 **and by which you are being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. 3 For I **delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 **that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures.

5. Because Jesus was raised on the third day one day we will be raised in glory and power bearing his image, 1 Corinthians 15:42-49.

- (1 Corinthians 15:42–49 ESV) So is it with the resurrection of the dead. **What is sown is perishable**; what is raised is imperishable. 43 **It is sown in dishonor**; it is raised in glory. **It is sown in weakness**; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The **first man Adam** became a living being”; **the last Adam** became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; **the second man is from heaven**. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, **and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven**. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven**.

What is sown is decomposing; what is raised is incorrupt, pure, sincere.

What is sown is shame and disgrace; what is raised is brilliant, radiant beauty.

What is sown is weak and without strength or vigor; what is raised is supernatural and powerful.

What is sown is the natural body of the dust—the fallen living being of whom the first Adam is the prototype.

What is raised is the spiritual body bearing the image of the last Adam, the man of heaven.

WHY ... OR HOW ... IS THIS POSSIBLE ... THAT WE CAN BE RESURRECTED TO GLORY BEARING THE IMAGE OF JESUS ... EVEN THOUGH HIS IMAGE IN US HAS BEEN CORRUPTED AND DISHONORED **... BECAUSE CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS.**

6. One day we will be changed and we will inherit the kingdom of God as beautiful, radiant, supernatural, powerful, immortals, 1 Corinthians 15:50-57.

- (1 Corinthians 15:50–57 ESV) I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed**, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. **For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed**. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, **and this mortal body must put on immortality**. 54 **When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written**: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 **The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law**. 57 **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**.

7. The logical, biblical, practical (as in not theoretical) outcome then for the one who will one day be resurrected and immortal is that he or she should **now** be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, 1 Corinthians 15:58.

- (1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV) **Therefore**, my beloved brothers, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.