

THE RESURRECTION PAUL PREACHED

Text: Acts 17:18

INTRO: The apostle Paul was not the only N.T. teacher to teach about the resurrection, but more can be learned about the resurrection from his writings & speeches than from any other N.T. character. For the next few minutes, let us give our attention to the subject of the resurrection Paul preached.

I. IT WAS COMMONLY A PART OF PAUL'S PREACHING TO PREACH CHRIST RESURRECTED, & THRU HIM, THE RESURRECTION OF OTHERS. READ ACTS 17:32; 23:6

II. PAUL PREACHED THAT THE RESURRECTION IS A BASIC, UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE OF CHRISTIANITY.

READ HEBREWS 6:1-3; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20

III. THE RESURRECTION PAUL PREACHED IS A GENERAL RESURRECTION.

I have hope toward God... that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just & the unjust (Acts 24:14-15).

READ I CORINTHIANS 15:20-22

IV. PAUL PREACHED A RESURRECTION THAT WAS FUTURE

A. Of course, he recognized that a spiritual resurrection was already taking place, as those who had been dead in sin were made alive in Christ.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... (Eph. 2:4-5).

READ ROMANS 6:3=5

B. But Paul clearly taught that those who denied a future resurrection were false teachers.
[Hymenaeus & Philetus] have strayed concerning the

truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; & they overthrow the faith of some (2 Tim. 2:18).

There will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just & the unjust. (Acts 24:15).

READ I CORINTHIANS 15:20-23

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (Phil. 3:20-21).

VI. PAUL PREACHED A BODILY RESURRECTION.

- A. Phil. 3:20-21 above.
- B. Christ's bodily resurrection was the 1st fruits of our own resurrection. READ I COR. 15:3-8, 20-23
- C. Paul refers to the resurrection as the "adoption" and "the redemption of our body," Rom. 8:23
- D. He writes of our putting away this temporary body and receiving one that is eternal. READ 1 COR 5:1-4.

VII. LET US NOW EXAMINE PAUL'S TEACHING REGARDING THE RESURRECTION IN 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-58.

- A. vs. 35, How is resurrection possible?
- B. vs. 36-38, Things equally improbable happen every day. Can you explain them?

MacKnight: "To illustrate the possibility of the res., the apostle appeals to a thing which men every day behold & which is little less wonderful than the res. itself—the reproduction of grain from seed sown, which does not grow unless it be rotten in the ground. But after its body is destroyed, something springs out of it, which by a wonderful process, the effect of the power of God,

ends in the reproduction of the same kind of grain, not bare as it was sown, but richly adorned with blades, stalk, and ear.”

- C. vs. 39-40. In these vs., Paul declares that the resurrection is not impossible, because there are different kinds of bodies. Just because a person has lived in a terrestrial body does not preclude his body being celestial in the resurrection.
- D. vs. 41. If God can give a glory to the moon & a greater glory to the sun, He can supply man in this life with a mortal body & give immortality to man’s body in the age which is to come.
- E. vs. 42-44. The word translated natural is the same word frequently translated carnal. The body that is buried is subject to temptations of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye & the pride of life, but the body is raised so that it is not carnal but spiritual; not subject to its former natural inclinations, but subject to the leading of the spirit.
- F. vs. 45-49. Our present bodies are like that of Adam. Our resurrected bodies will be like the resurrected body of Christ--immortal & incorruptible.
- G. vs. 50-58. Flesh & blood cannot inherit the eternal heavenly kingdom. Corruption cannot inherit incorruption. BUT our corruptible bodies will put on incorruption. The part of man that is mortal will put on immortality. I cannot explain the process by which this will be accomplished any more than I can explain the process by which a grain of corn rots in the earth & yet springs forth to produce a stalk, a blade, an ear & finally the full corn in the ear--but I have seen it take place every year since I can remember--and someday I will see & experience the resurrection that Paul preached!

VIII. THE RESURRECTION PAUL PREACHED IS THE SAME

RESURRECTION THAT OTHERS BELIEVED IN,
YEARNED FOR, & PROCLAIMED IN BOTH THE OLD
AND NEW TESTAMENTS.

- A. Job: And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself & my eyes shall behold... (19:26-27).
- B. David foretold the resurrection of Jesus in Psa 16:10, & in the next Psalm, he wrote: “As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness” (Psa. 17:17).
- C. The original 12 apostles taught that the resurrection of Jesus was the pattern for the resurrection of us all.

They taught the people & preached in Jesus the res. from the dead. (Acts 4:2).
- D. Jesus Himself taught a future, bodily resurrection of both the just & the unjust, as the end of the world.
READ JOHN 5:28-29

CONCLUSION: Again, I may not know all the mechanics. I cannot identify the processes by which it will be brought to pass, but I am fully confident that there will be a literal, bodily resurrection of both the just & the unjust at the time of the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ & the end of the world. I believe it will be a great blessing for all who have served God faithfully through the years.

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