

“Why Jesus had to be Resurrected,” Part 2 - 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 – April 10th, 2016

- Today’s teaching will be part two of a series I’ve titled, “Why Jesus had to be Resurrected.”
- As the Lord would have it on Resurrection Sunday two weeks ago we began 1 Corinthians 15, which is about the resurrection.
- Verses 1-11 was our text on Resurrection Sunday and last week, our text was verses 12-19, which is where we pick it up today.

- The Apostle Paul has just asked and answered the rhetorical question of what it would mean for us were Jesus not resurrected.
- As such we looked at six implications were there no such thing as the literal resurrection of the dead chiefly, that of the Savior’s.
- Now, beginning here in verse twenty Paul turns a corner of sorts and further explains why it is that Jesus had to be resurrected.

1. So we could be resurrected (Verses 20-23)

- v20 Paul declares that Jesus Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, and is the firstfruits of those who have died in Christ.
- v21 He then says since death came through a man, speaking of Adam, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man.
- v22-23 He says as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive, each in turn: Christ the firstfruits; then us when He comes.

- What Paul is saying is Jesus had to be resurrected, in order for us to have the hope and anticipation of also being resurrected.
- In other words because we are united with Christ in His death then so too are we certainly united with Christ in His resurrection.

Romans 6:5 (NIV) — 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- I suppose you could rightly say that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then neither would anyone who dies rise from the dead.
- It’s for this reason that Paul refers to Christ’s resurrection as the firstfruits in that; He is the fulfillment of the Feast of Firstfruits.
- We did an in-depth study of the Seven-Feasts back when we were studying through the book of Leviticus chapter twenty-three.

- One of the most fascinating aspects of the Feasts is the meaning of the word in both Hebrew and my native tongue of Arabic.
- The word feast or festival is “moade” which means appointed time or an appointment yet future and can be translated as a sign.
- By way of an illustration, if there’s a sign in town that says “Kaneohe 14-miles,” it’s a “moad” that points to a final destination.

That’s Hebrew and Arabic, but as one commentator noted, “Firstfruits” is the ancient Greek word *aparche*. In the Septuagint, this word is used for the offering of firstfruits and in secular usage the word was used for an entrance fee.

- The feasts were prophetic types that pointed to and were fulfilled by Jesus Christ, His resurrection and entrance into heaven.
- The first 4 were fulfilled with the Christ’s first coming and the last 3 will be fulfilled with the rapture and Christ’s second coming.
- I’m hoping you’ll kindly allow me to quickly go through all seven of the Feasts and how they are fulfilled by Christ prophetically.

REFERENCE	FEAST	FULFILLMENT
(Leviticus 23:5)	Passover	The Crucifixion
(Leviticus 23:6-8)	Unleavened Bread	The Burial
(Leviticus 23:9-14)	First-Fruits	The Resurrection
(Leviticus 23:15-22)	Pentecost	The Church Age
(Leviticus 23:23-25)	Trumpets	The Rapture of the Church
(Leviticus 23:26-32)	Day of Atonement	The 2 nd Coming
(Leviticus 23:33-43)	Tabernacles	The Kingdom Age and Heaven

2. So He could destroy the last enemy (Verses 24-28)

- v24-26 Paul says the end comes when He hands the Kingdom to the Father after he’s destroyed the last enemy, which is death.
- v27 He says Jesus will have put everything under His feet, which means when death is destroyed, everything is under Christ.
- v28 He then says when He has done this the Son Himself will be made subject to the Father, so in the end God may be all in all.

- I don’t know if it’s possible to overstate the reality of how death is the greatest of enemy’s more so than anything else in our life.
- While I realize we have the enemy of the devil, the flesh and the world, nothing compares with the greatest enemy of all, death.
- Death is the enemy that patiently waits to take us because we all have a limited amount of heartbeats and amount of breaths.

It was Benjamin Franklin, who famously said, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

- Often times I’m asked why I don’t preach sermons dealing with needs and concerns of our life, like parenting, marriage, etc..
- While there is a place for those needs and concerns in this life, the ultimate need is for the end of our life, when we face death.
- So much so, that if we were to have the Apostle Paul as a guest speaker here at our church I believe this is what he’d teach on.

John 5:28–29 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

I’ll close with a quote from D.L., “Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal- a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever.”