

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 15:1-11

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX773 JUNE 3, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE? – PART 4**

*DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Death, Eternity, Resurrection, Hell, Heaven, God**

**Job said, "If a man dies, shall he live again?"**

**Job 14:14**

If a man dies, shall he live *again*? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.

**Jesus Christ Said – yes !!!**

**John 11:25-26**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. :26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

**No question can more seriously engage the attention**

of any man than that one. Throughout the history of man, that question has regurgitated its way up from the depths of every human soul. Every man poses within himself the question of immortality.

**Some of the oldest literature in the world is the Egyptian**

Book of the Dead, and in that Book of the Dead is found a belief that immortality is possible. – prep your mummy !

**In India, for example, the records of Hinduism**

and Brahmanism, as described in the Rig-Veda, reveal a clear belief in immortality. Buddhism, which is a later development of Hinduism, introduced the idea of immortality from the concept of the transmigration of souls.

**In Persia/Iran, Zoroastrianism sets forth immortality.**

**In the ancient Greek religions,**

there was a belief in many gods and to future life, and in fact, in some cases, a silver coin was placed in the mouth of the one who died in order to pay the fare across the Mystic River of Death.

**In Rome, the worshippers of Jupiter and the worshippers of Minerva** looked forward to the shadowy realm of the living dead.

**In China and Japan, belief in immortality took the form** of ancestor worship.

**The American Indians placed within the grave of** the departed one of his bows and his arrows and, very often, his horse in order that he might be well equipped for the great hunting ground in the skies.

**You see, it makes all the difference to the soul** of man whether or not life is more than just the cradle to the grave experience.

**There is a story of a little blind boy who was flying his kite,** and the pastor of a local church walked by and asked him, *"How do you know your kite's up there? You can't see it."* The boy replied, *"I know it's there somewhere because I can feel its tug on the string that's in my hand."*

"Every man feels the tug of immortality upon his heart and mind. And though he cannot see it, and though he cannot define it, yet he senses it is there."

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?**

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

### **1.) Arguments from beyond the grave**

**v.1-2**

And so we looked at 10 challenging questions that you must consider because - one day you will have to give an answer.

When it comes time for you to die, will you have...

*"assurance, peace, forgiveness, ready, hopeful, alone, condemned, soon, knowing, saved?"*

### **2.) Arguments from beyond eternity**

**v.3-4**

Again, we looked at 10 issues that cannot be avoided. Issues of life and death and eternity – that some day you will experience.

*Gospel, Righteousness, Love, Light, Holiness, Justice,*

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

### 3.) Arguments from beyond God's heaven

v.5-8

10 facts about God that cannot be denied.

*Jesus is there, Abundance, Best, His Desire, Gifts, Rewards, Praise, Glory, Joy, Realized.*

#### 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**Moreover**, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **:2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. **:3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **:4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, **:5** and that He was **seen** by Cephas, **then** by the twelve. **:6** **After that** He was **seen** by over five hundred brethren **at once**, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have (*died*) fallen asleep. **:7** **After** that He was **seen** by James, **then** by all the apostles. **:8** **Then** last of all He was **seen** by me also, as by one born out of **due time**. **:9** For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was with me*. **:11** Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:9-11

For I am the **least** of the apostles, who am **not worthy** to be called an apostle, (why?) because I **persecuted** the church of God. **:10** But **by the grace** of God I am what I am, and His grace **toward** me was not in **vain**; but I **labored** more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but **the grace** of God *which was with me*. **:11** Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, **so we preach** and **so you believed**.

### The Gospel – The “Anti” Death Solution

#### 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **:4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

The Christian and The Doctrine of the Resurrection From The Dead are Inseparable Realities. You Cannot Have One Without the Other.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?

**4.) Arguments from beyond us**

**v. 9-11**

**1.) From beyond our pride**

**v.9**

For I am **the least** of the apostles,

**ejlaꝥcistoß elachistos**

The Bible exposes the **sinfulness** of our hearts and the **depravity** of our motives. There are outright blatant sins for all to see and then there are the more dangerous sins that are well hidden and concealed. But none are worse than the sin of pride. **Pride is the single most effective "Gospel Resistant" weapon a human being has.**

**Because Pride is Self-Everything.  
Self-Justifying. Self-Promoting. Self-Seeking.**

Meeting Jesus Christ Ruins Pride. Drawing near to the person of Jesus has an illuminating effect causing pride to be extracted like the pulling out of a bloody tooth

**Having An Honest Recognition of Our Own Sinfulness**

**Before Paul Had Met Christ**

**Philippians 3:4-6**

Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: **:5** circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; **:6** concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

**Paul saw the outright arrogance of his proud heart.**

**After Meeting Christ**

**1 Timothy 1:15**

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Encounter The Lord Jesus Christ.  
There is reverence / There is awe / There is realization.

**2.) From beyond our self-estimation**

**v.9b**

who am **not worthy** to be called an apostle,

**iJkano/ß hikanos**

weak and unable. To not have what is needed for the task at hand. Not up to the job.

**1 Timothy 1:16**

However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

**Philippians 3:7-8**

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

**3.) From beyond our condemnation**

**v.9c**

because I **persecuted** the church of God.

Please Understand that this is Paul – the Christian.  
He is forgiven and he knows it. But he CAREFULLY looks back at his B.C. days.

**Before King Agrippa**

**Acts 26:9-11**

“Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. :10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against *them*. :11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted *them* even to foreign cities.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?  
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND US.**

**4.) From beyond our character**

**v.10a**

:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am,

**This is evidence of a changed character.** The verse demands that it is an internal change that works its way out of man.

**LISTEN TO HOW THIS BECAME HIS REALITY. THE EVIDENCE THAT  
GOD WAS AT WORK COULD NOT BE DENIED.**

**Galatians 2:20-21**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. :21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**2 Corinthians 2:16 NLT**

To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?  
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND US.**

**5.) From beyond our need**

**v.10b**

:10b and His grace toward me was not in vain;

God's gift of grace was not wasted on me

**Matthew 11:16**

"But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, :17 and saying: "We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament."

**"When God Knocked on the door of my life, my heart,**

I saw the truth. That truth began its work in my life – His grace has been, is, shall be the power that changes my life." – *signed Paul*

God Offers Us **TRANSFORMATION** and He Invites Us to Take It.

**Ephesians 2:4-6**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, :5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), :6 and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

**Philippians 1:6**

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

**6.) From beyond our achievements**

**v.10c**

but I **labored** more abundantly than they all, yet not I, **but the grace of God** which was **with** me.

**Philippians 3:8-9**

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

**Philippians 2:13**

for it is God who **works in you** both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

**works in you**  
meaning that the Will of God, the Love of God, the Light of God, the Holiness of God  
**works out from you**

**“But the Grace of God”**

“But the Grace of God”

“But the Grace of God”

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE?  
ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND US.**

**7.) From beyond our preferences**

**v.11a**

Therefore, whether it **was** I or **they**, so we preach and so you believed.

Whether by me or the other apostles doesn't matter - the issue is,  
you became a believer.

*I have been greatly spoiled in my spiritual experience with Jesus. Greg Laurie led me to Christ. Chuck Smith disciplined me in the Word. David Hocking encouraged me to teach it and I was ordained at CCCM.*

**1 Corinthians 3:4-7**

For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I *am* of Apollos,” are you not carnal? :5 Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? :6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. :7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

**8.) From beyond our experiences**

**v.11**

**we preach...**

This was the radical message of Christianity in the first century

The Dead Will Live Again. All Mankind Must Stand Before God.  
Your Life Will Answer To God. You Can be Forgiven Because Jesus Died for You.

**1 Corinthians 6:14**

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

**“We Preach The Grace of God”**

**THE PROOF IS – JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD !!!**

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DIE? ARGUMENTS FROM BEYOND US.

## 9.) From beyond our convincing

v.11

and so **you believed.**

### John 8:24

Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I Am, you will die in your sins.”

### John 1:10-12

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. :11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. :12 But as many as **received** Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe** in His name:

## 10.) From beyond ourselves

v.11

**you believed.**

It's Pretty Awesome to Realize That The Preaching of the Gospel  
Cannot be outdated or upgraded or revised – it is what it is.

### 1 Corinthians 1:18

For **the message of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Why is it foolishness?

Because

How is it the power of God?

Because

**“GIVE THEM THE CROSS”**

*End of Study*

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