

"What A Resurrected Life Reflects"

Text: 1 Cor. 15:12-19

Intro:

➔ In our passage the Apostle Paul tells us the consequences of "If Christ be not raised."

□ Our Preaching Would Be Useless (v. 14a) - "**then is our preaching vain**"

□ Our Faith Would Be Meaningless (v. 14b) - "**and your faith is also vain**"

□ Our Message Would Be Deceptive (v. 15a) - "**Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God**"

□ Our Salvation Would Be Unreliable (v. 17) - "**ye are yet in your sins**"

□ Our Loved Ones Would Be Un-raiseable (v. 18) - "**Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.**"

□ Our Lives Would Be Miserable (v. 19) - "**If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.**"

➔ In other words, the whole basis for becoming and being a Christian is worthless.

□ If Christ was not resurrected, then we have no reason for being here this morning.

□ If Christ was not resurrected, then my preaching this morning is worthless.

- If Christ was not resurrected then the preaching of the Word of God has no affect, it will accomplish absolutely nothing.
 - I might as well be giving a lecture on the problems with the ozone or global warming.
- If Christ was not resurrected, then when we witness to others about being saved by grace through faith we are lying.
 - We are lying because with no resurrection of Christ then we are giving folks a false sense of hope.
- If Christ was not resurrected, then our sins have not been forgiven and when we die then we will all go to hell.
- If Christ was not resurrected, then those who have died believing in Christ have perished.
 - They are burning in hell this very second.
- ➔ However, praise the Lord the Apostle Paul did not end 1 Corinthians 15 with verse 18.
 - He continues - **See 1 Cor. 15:20-23**
 - **v. 20 - "But now is Christ risen from the dead..."**
 - **Amen and Amen.**
- ➔ I believe what the Apostle Paul was trying to emphasize to all believers just the importance of the resurrection of Christ.
 - The benefits that all Christians dead and alive possess.
- ➔ Praise God that in the Gospel accounts that we read when the women came to the tomb on that first resurrection morning that they were

greeted by angel that told - "**He is not here: for he is risen, as he said....**"

- Because Christ has risen from the dead, then as Christians our lives should reflect the resurrection.
- This morning we want to look at some of the characteristics of the resurrected life.

I. Christian's Walk Should Be In Newness of Life

→ **Romans 6:4** - "**even so we also should walk in newness of life**"

- Our walk should reflect the resurrected life in Christ Jesus.
 - Our new life in Christ not our old life in sin.

→ **2 Cor. 5:17** "**new creature**" "**all things are become new**"

→ **Our walk in newness of life should reflect a walk of:**

- **Faith** - 2 Cor. 5:7 - "(For we **walk by faith**, not by sight:)"
- **Spirituality** - Gal. 5:16 - "This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."
- **Consistency** - Eph. 4:1 - "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye **walk worthy** of the vocation wherewith ye are called,"
- **Love** - Eph. 5:2 - "And **walk in love**, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour."
- **Caution** - Eph. 5:15 - "See then that ye **walk circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise"

- **Illumination** - 1 John 1:7 - "But if we **walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
- **Christlikeness** - Col. 2:6 - "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk ye in him**:"

II. **Christian's Affection Should Be Set Things Above**

➔ **Colossians 3:1-2 - "If ye then be risen with Christ"**

- "Seek those things which are above"
- "Set your affection on things above"

➔ **Affection** - Passion; but more generally, A bent of mind towards a particular object, holding a middle place between disposition, which is natural, and passion, which is excited by the presence of its exciting object. Affection is a permanent bent of the mind, formed by the presence of an object, or by some act of another person, and existing without the presence of its object.

➔ The resurrected life reflects a life where the Christian's affection is set on the eternal things not the temporary things of this earth.

➔ Unfortunately, the majority of Christians are double minded.

- They are trying to serve God and Money.
- Jesus warned that you cannot serve two masters because you will hate the one and love the other.
- Jesus warned about laying up earthly treasures - **See Mt. 6:19-**

21.

→ The Bible says in 1 Cor. 8:3 - "**But if any man love God, the same is known of him.**"

- My dear friend can you honestly say that people that you come in contact with each day know that you love God.
- I am speaking about not only believers but also non-believers.
- Many Christians do not even know what the inside of the church looks like without Easter Lilies or Christmas poinsettias.

→ If your affection is set on the things above then your **time**, **talent**, and **tithe** should reflect it.

→ Because if you really love someone:

- Then you want to **spend your time** with them.
- Then you want to **supply your talent** doing things for them.
- Then you want to **spend your tithe or money** on them to please them.

III. **Christian's labor Should Be Steadfast,**

→ **I Cor. 15:51-58 - Read**

→ In this passage the Apostle Paul tells us about one of the greatest mysteries in the Word of God.

- The bodily resurrection of the believer.
- Both those have died believing in Christ and those that are alive when the Lord's return.

- Paul tells us because Christ was resurrected that the believer has victory over the grave and death because neither can hold the believer.
- Therefore, as result of this information the bodily resurrection of the believer.
- The believer's labor should reflect -
 - **Steadfastness** - Keep on Keeping on, no matter what is thrown your way.
 - Gal. 6:9 - "**And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**"
 - **Unmoveable** - Staying in the battle, never retreating.
 - Notice how the Apostle's Paul labor was unmoveable.
 - **See Acts 20:17-24**
 - **v. 24** - "But none of these things **move** me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."
 - **Always Abounding in the work of the Lord**
 - Abounding means to increase.
 - In other words, always in increasing in the work of the Lord.
 - Some Christians believe that you get to a point in your life and you retire from serving the Lord.

- Paul never did!!!
- "Wait a minute" you say, "What about the statement Paul made in 2 Timothy 4:7.
- **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"**
- Paul made that statement just before he was beheaded for the cause of Christ.
- Our labor for the Lord should always be abounding.
- Paul tells us why in 1 Cor 15:58.
- **"forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."**
- In other words the eternal payoff is waiting for us in heaven.

Conclusion:

- ➔ We have seen this morning that the resurrected life should reflect -
- A Walk in Newness of Life.
 - An Affection Set on the Things Above
 - A Labor in the Lord that is Steadfast, Unmovable and Always Abounding
 - My dear friend what does your life reflect?