

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**I CORINTHIANS 15*****I Corinthians 15***

This chapter in the book of I Corinthians contains the longest and most thorough explanation of the resurrection in the Bible. The Corinthians were confused as to how the resurrection of Jesus fit into the gospel message and how the resurrection of Jesus related to them and their future. Read this long chapter and then read it again. I do hope you will listen to the podcast.

"For I delivered to you first that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remains to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time." (I Corinthians 15:3-8)

Paul shares the clearest, most complete, and most concise definition of the gospel anywhere in the New Testament. The gospel is the good message/news. It consists of three parts.

1. ***Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures.*** This is different than saying, "Christ Jesus died on Calvary..." The fact is that the good news is that Jesus "Christ died for our sins..." This is a theological must. The gospel is not that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again.

But that Christ died ***for our sins***...These three words speak of substitutionary atonement.

Jesus died in our place as a substitute.

2. ***Jesus was buried.*** This is important because it speaks of the reality that He did indeed die and wasn't merely unconscious. He was buried in a rich man's tomb, a tomb where no man had laid.
3. ***Jesus rose from the dead according to the Scripture.*** Death could not hold him. Romans 1:4 ***"and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."*** That is, the resurrection is the signature event that proves beyond any doubt that Jesus was and is the Son of God. The resurrection of Jesus is different from all other resurrections in the Bible in that Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again. All others who died and were resurrected, like Lazarus, rose from the dead but would die again.

This is a critical chapter that not only speaks of the resurrection of Jesus but is the first fruit of all who are in His family. Those who are in Christ Jesus will one day be raised from the dead with a body like that of Jesus after His resurrection. Some will not die, but everyone has to have a new body to go to heaven. These earthly bodies cannot live in a spiritual realm. The closing verses of this chapter from v.51ff speak of this mystery.

Prayer and Action Steps

Father, thank You that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and lives forevermore. Thank You that because the Lord Jesus died for my sins, and I have repented of my sins and placed my trust in Jesus so that if I die before Jesus comes, my body will be raised from the dead and reunited with my soul and spirit forever. Amen