

From Another Star in Glory

1 Corinthians 15:1 – 44



~ Our Spiritual Safari rolls on in this report through one of the most remarkable chapters in the entire Word of God. Paul is emphatically declaring the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as the only means to salvation. In our last report, we took a preliminary look at this chapter; and if you haven't read that report, I suggest you go back and do so now. Christ was raised from the dead, friends. If you sincerely ask the Holy Spirit to make Himself real in your life, mind and your heart - He will. I would urge you to do it, but I would also caution you that there is no turning back from Christ after you do. Once God makes Himself real to us, then we will be His for life – there's no going back. God means business when we start talking about salvation and begging Him to save us and all of that. You may get very far from Him in your walk, but you will always be His son; once you genuinely are saved by grace. The Gospel is not a theory or an ideology; and it's not a religion, either. The bodily resurrection of Christ is part of the Gospel, and the Gospel is what Paul was preaching to the Corinthian church. The Gospel is objective; experience is subjective. We're dealing in facts....

John 1: ¹¹ *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.* ¹² *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name ~*

To receive Christ means we simply believe on His Name. That's it. Nothing else to do – nothing else required – just believe. The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is wherein we stand! Where do *YOU* stand today? Are you standing on a living faith in a living Savior? Now, we're not talking about a head-nodding yes to something we don't really understand in a flippant easy-believism for personal gain, though. If you play fast and loose with God, you will get burned every time.

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Accepting the Gospel facts as true in their historical content and realizing they are meaningful as God implements His laws and precepts from His Word in our lives — means we have received Christ in our heart and are saved as children of God. It's not our joy in Christ that saves; it's Christ. It's not our hope in Christ that saves; it's Christ. It's not even our faith that saves, although faith is the instrument the Lord uses; it's Christ's Blood and His Merit to the Father Alone Who saves us, my friends....

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

~ Many people believe in vain today; meaning they believe without a cause. Their faith does not rest upon facts; so there is no effect in their life. Their hearts and thinking have not changed. These people are not genuinely converted. You can have all the faith in the world — but if it isn't faith in a *Savior* Who died for your sins and rose again, then you are still dead; and whatever religion you think you have is just as dead as it can possibly be, too. Again, we're not talking about a theory or philosophy; this was all done according to Scripture....

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

~ That means Old Testament Scriptures, too, by the way. The entire Mosaic sacrificial system of Levitical Law included the shedding of blood; which pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ. Cain's sacrifice was not acceptable — and never would or could have been acceptable — because there was no shedding of blood. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. We have already seen the law concerning the two goats, as well as the Great Day of Atonement in this safari. We also looked inside the Ark of the Lord in the tabernacle and examined Aaron's rod that budded. Jonah's

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prophecy teaches resurrection — plain and simple. The Old Testament closes with the promise of Elijah being sent. All content, subjects, topics and discourse found in the Word of God just happens to be about the Lord Jesus Christ...

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

⁸ And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

~ This passage presents a picture of the remnant that will be saved after the church is removed in the rapture. Paul says he was the least of the apostles; I don't agree. I believe the Bible, but I also believe Paul was being very modest as he wrote this section of Scripture. The inspiration of the Spirit of God guarantees this came from Paul's heart. Paul has already called himself the chief of sinners – *AFTER* his conversion. This wasn't an empty psychological mind trick for Paul – this was real. I think that's why Paul was the hardest working apostle of them all, too, by the way. Paul says everything he was, had, or had ever done, was only by the grace of God....

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet 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 which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

¹¹ Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

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~ Quite frankly, I get a little tired of self-professing believers who don't even realize they deny the facts of the Gospel; because they are totally and completely ignorant of the Word of God. If you don't know what you believe, then you are something – but you're not a Christian, my little Jesus people friends. If you deny or doubt the Lord Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection – and you have every right to do reject truth, but – you have no right to call yourself a Christian; because you're not. That's what God is personally telling us.

The church in Corinth had a background of Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Platonism that each inherently deny the resurrection; and not specifically the resurrection of Christ – but they each deny bodily resurrection – wholesale. So, with that, Paul brings us to a series of “ifs” now. Paul didn't tip-toe around the fact that many people said, “.... *IF Christ be not raised....*” Paul didn't try to avoid this problem and just hope it would never come up. He meets it head-on. Most people say we can't be sure about this; so, they never say too much about it. Most Christians, actually, avoid discussing this like the bubonic plague. Our safari is sure....

¹² Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

¹³ But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

¹⁴ And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

~ See, our safari stands on a Rock; and that Rock is the Living and True God, Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Paul says Christ is the firstfruit based on the resurrection, and those after Him are coming later. That means, necessarily, that we are going to have another Pentecost. The church came into existence on Pentecost and when it leaves the earth it will be Pentecost again. I don't know what church you belong to, friends; but, if there is no resurrection bodily from the dead, then our church, our

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preaching, our faith, beliefs, and works would all amount to the most ridiculous state of a miserable non-sensical existence any man could find himself living in. It would also mean these men who wrote the various books of the Bible were false witnesses and, quite frankly, were just plain crazy! That happens to be what most unbelievers think about us, too, by the way. All I can say is: men do not die for what they know is a lie....

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming for His church.

~ The reformers recovered a majority of lost Bible truth — but they didn't recover all sound doctrine. There is not one general resurrection day for all saints. I hear a lot of talk concerning eschatology; and it is typically presented in a shameful, pseudo-peanut collection of something they

aren't exactly sure of. There are hundreds of different opinions on Who the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ is. Others question the inerrancy of Scriptures from the earliest days. Most people don't believe the Bible is the Word of God anyways; so that leads to myriad false, misinformed and purely uneducated "teaching" of eschatology. I prefer to properly label it the spreading of misinformation.

Remember, Revelation is a book of prophecy, too. If you haven't commented on the other sixty-five books in the Bible, then you have no business even referring to Revelation. See, that's why I do this safari this way, too, friends; we have covered sixty-five books before we take up Revelation. Further, I try to refrain from quoting Scripture from Revelation because, quite frankly, we're not there yet. Prophecy is important; but it is important to understand it properly, correctly and completely.

We will and need to handle prophecy carefully. The problem is: there is such an extent of saturation regarding irresponsible eschatology that very few will ever find the correct teaching thereof. So many – *SO* many – are deceived and led astray when they think they are on the right prophetic path. Narrow are the gates of Heaven, and few are they who enter therein. There is a way that seems right to a man, but the ends thereof....

²⁴ Then cometh the end of the age, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

~ Paul is speaking of the end of the millennial kingdom in verse twenty-four where he says "*.... shall have delivered up the kingdom....*". This speaks of the thousand-year reign of Christ. Today, we are waiting for the rapture of the church. After that, the church will be taken to Heaven and the Great Tribulation begins on earth. After the Great Tribulation period, Christ returns to establish His Kingdom down here. Subsequently, Satan is released again. After Satan is released for a season, Christ returns yet again and establishes His Kingdom on earth forevermore. The *eternal kingdom* is a projection onward of the *millennial kingdom*; the difference is that the

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millennial kingdom is a time of trial and testing. The eternal kingdom is not....

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

~ When Christ completes His millennial reign on earth and establishes His eternal reign, which I believe will be led by King David and the best rewarded church saints, we may rule with Christ by proxy at that time; but that may also *not* be true. Either way, at that time, with David on the throne, the Lord Jesus Christ returns to His place in the Godhead, where He was in the beginning, and will fill the millennial temple with the Shekinah Glory again. Naturally, it will all be done right there in Jerusalem! God is *ALL in ALL*....

29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?

~ Our safari has already established at least twenty different definitions for “baptism” in the Classic Greek Lexicon. It means identification as far as we’re concerned in this expedition. This is *NOT* water baptism; this is the baptism of the Holy Spirit — and it’s the only baptism this so-called safari acknowledges from the Word of God. Here, in verse twenty-nine, Paul is saying it would be rather foolish to be identified with a group of dead people. Paul was in constant danger of death in his life; God just happened

to work it out that way. Paul lived his life for Christ's sake — and no other reason, friends....

30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?

31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

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⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

⁴³ It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

~ Our Spiritual Safari is a seed-sowing expedition. Our physical bodies will be raised in newness of life in a glorified state in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had a little bit more information and understanding of said information than most of us like to think he had. The natural body is what we reside in today; but that which will be raised in resurrection will be a spiritual body. That's great, to be sure – but – let's not place the emphasis on spiritual. It's going to be a body. What we know is that it won't be this feeble, corruptible body that dies, gets sick and falls apart. These bodies we have here on earth are very weak. When we are raised to eternal life, it will be in the power, glory and incorruption of our Savior.

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is a wonderful, glorious promise from God, friends! The thought of having a perfect body that never ages, never gets sick, never needs or lacks, and has no more death is beyond my imagination. Our resurrected body will no longer be subject to sin, or the deadly effects iniquity has on each of our lives. We all struggle with sin in this corruptible body; and have since Adam and Eve disobeyed God. God is aware of the struggle we face daily to hate sin and flee from it. He's also aware of how we struggle to love Him. That's why God has given us His Word: to provide us with an understanding of Who He is and who we are in Him. God also gives us the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to empower our lives and live Godly before Him.

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Our safari went over this in painstaking detail in Romans chapters six, seven and eight. I would suggest you revisit those reports. They are all available for free on our web site. Make sure you, at least, read the Roman chapters in your Bible after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment in His Excellent Word. When you know the Scriptures properly, correctly and completely, then giving it out to the world will become very meaningful. Please pray for me, too, friends; because nothing can be accomplished unless we pray about it ~

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