

Christ and the Resurrection – Sunday Night Sermon on May 10, 2015

Turn in our Bibles to First Corinthians, chapter fifteen. Good to be in the house of God this evening. Glad to know that the Lord allowed us to be here together another time. It's all in His control. I'm glad, thank God that He let it happen. First Corinthians chapter fifteen, we're gonna begin reading at verse one. The Bible says,

1 Corinthians 15:1 KJV - Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1 Corinthians 15:2 KJV - By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:3 KJV - For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1 Corinthians 15:4 KJV - And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1 Corinthians 15:5 KJV - And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

1 Corinthians 15:6 KJV - 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.

1 Corinthians 15:7 KJV - After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:8 KJV - And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

1 Corinthians 15:9 KJV - For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Corinthians 15:10 KJV - 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.

1 Corinthians 15:11 KJV - Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

1 Corinthians 15:12 KJV - Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1 Corinthians 15:13 KJV - But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

1 Corinthians 15:14 KJV - And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

1 Corinthians 15:15 KJV - 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.

1 Corinthians 15:16 KJV - For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

1 Corinthians 15:17 KJV - And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:18 KJV - Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

1 Corinthians 15:19 KJV - If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

As we look at chapter fifteen tonight, this chapter, the theme of it literally is, the Resurrection. Both the Resurrection of Christ, then he'll deal with the resurrection of Christians as well. The key verse is verse fifty eight, if you wanna look over there at it. It's the very last verse in this chapter. It's says,

1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

He said that therefore to tie together all the verses in this chapter. And as we look at them, there's fifty eight verses, 100166 words, all inspired by God, preserved forever in our King James Bible. If we wanted to see an outline of this chapter, and the outline of it would be like this. The first nineteen verses we read tonight deal with the Resurrection of Christ, while the verses twenty through fifty eight deal with the resurrection of Christians and the importance of the Resurrection of Christ goes with that as well. And as we look tonight, you're looking at a book that when it gets to subjections like the Resurrection, that's central to the Gospel theme, it drops the grade level for this chapter down to four point four on the grade level. God wants everybody to get in on this message. He wants everybody's mental faculties to be able to take in the fact that His Son Jesus died for their sins and there is hope. As we go to the Lord in prayer tonight, I want to preach to you on Christ and the Resurrection. So lets' pray. Father, we love ya. Lord God, we thank you God for this time to be in the house of God. Lord, as we look in your precious book tonight, God help us to see Christ and the Resurrection. Lord, I pray you'll strengthen each believer, help us Lord God to follow after you. And Lord, to go further than we ever thought we could go, because the Holy Ghost empowered us to go. Lord, pray God tonight you'll help me to preach according to thus saith the Lord, without fear, favor or compromise. And Lord we love you and thank you for everything you're gonna do. In Jesus precious name we pray, and for His sake. Amen.

As we look tonight in First Corinthians chapter fifteen, the first part of this chapter, we see the references about the Resurrection. And the first one we see is in these first four verses that deals with the plan of the Resurrection. This was, listen, I've heard of liberals get up and say that God had a plan B, cause He had to raise Jesus from the dead. Oh, no, friend, that was plan A, that was the plan all along. And the plan all along was that Christ would rise from the dead. It didn't catch God off guard because it was prophesied over and over in the Old Testament. In particularly in Psalm sixteen, and listen, he says, neither shall thy leave my soul in hell; or thine Holy One to see corruption. Why? The plan was always for Jesus to get up from the dead. You know why? You can't keep life sealed in a tomb, just like the old gospel song says. I see the plan of the Resurrection. He starts off in verse fifteen, verse one, he says, 1 Corinthians 15:1 KJV - Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

He's gonna talk to two groups of people here all of them have had been preached to about the gospel of Jesus Christ. And he points out, Moreover brethren, I first of all, what did he first get? The first message they got was the gospel. They got to hear about the gospel of Jesus Christ. How they were hopeless without God on one hand and they were headed for a devil's hell, but Christ paid for their sins by His death, burial and resurrection. His atoning death provided the payment for their sins, and He reconciled God with man, so that we could be partakers of that heavenly inheritance. Somebody said one time, all you Christians talk about pie-in-the-sky religion. Huhnuh honey, we get the pie now and then. Listen, it's like, listen, I've heard people say, we'll y'all just looking forward to die. I ain't never met one like that. But I have met a bunch of em that's got saved and is looking forward to living. See listen, I've see a lot of em give up on life and want to face the barrel of a gun, or a bottle of pills, and Christ

give em hope. Why? Because there's hope in Jesus Christ. He points out, Moreover brethren, moreover brethren. Hey, one thing I like to hear is this he's reminding them about the very thing he talked about at the beginning of this book. About the preaching of the cross. And he goes right back to that thing, and it becomes and over and over repeated thing throughout the epistles. Every time Paul writes, he brings it up about the right kind of preaching. And I notice he gets to verse two, and he's gonna go in verse two here, says, now listen to this, he says

1 Corinthians 15:2 KJV - By which also ye are saved,

Circle this little two letter word, IF,

1 Corinthians 15:2 KJV - if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you,
and then circle UNLESS,

1 Corinthians 15:2 KJV - unless ye have believed in vain.

Those two words right there, one of em a simple six letter word and one a simple two letter word, has confused more people in America than any I've ever seen. Now watch this,

1 Corinthians 15:2 KJV - By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory

Watch

1 Corinthians 15:2 KJV - what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

Lot of folks will take that IF right there and say see you've gotta keep it in your mind or you're lost. That ain't what he said. Unless and if go together. Unless ye have believed in vain. The if is pointed towards believed and the unless is pointed toward believed and if. See the thing of it is you'll find when Paul preaches here in this epistle, he directs things both to the saved church member and to the lost church member. For instance, hold your place here and look at chapter two. Chapter two, verse six. Chapter two, verse six. Key verses of the book of First Corinthians, verses six, seven and eight. Says, verse six of chapter two,

1 Corinthians 2:6 KJV - Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

1 Corinthians 2:7 KJV - But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1 Corinthians 2:8 KJV - Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

He's reasoning with lost people there. Where were they at? In the church at Corinth. Say, why would he address the lost people? Cause honey, God rains on the just and the unjust. Look over at chapter three, verse eighteen, chapter three, verse eighteen, he says,

1 Corinthians 3:18 KJV - Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

1 Corinthians 3:19 KJV - For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

Who's he writing that to? The lost.

1 Corinthians 3:20 KJV - And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

They're empty. Hey listen; hey he's addressing both the saved people, now he's addressing the lost people here. If you'll look over in chapter five, verse ten, another page over, chapter five, verse ten. Start in verse nine,

1 Corinthians 5:9 KJV - I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

1 Corinthians 5:10 KJV - Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

What's he talking about? He's talking about the saved and the lost. He addresses both crowds. Chapter ten, verse twenty, chapter ten, verse twenty, the Bible says over here in chapter ten, verse twenty,

1 Corinthians 10:20 KJV - But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

He addresses both the saved and the lost. And he warns the saved about fellowship with the lost over and over in this book. We've gotta be witnesses of them. And he shows us there in First Corinthians fifteen, the IF there, hey listen, some of these people hearing him, they not saved. And he's trying to get the message to them as well, so they can come be a part of what he's already been a partaker of, and you and I have been a partaker of. You'll notice in verse three here, verse three and verse four together, as we look at the plan of the Resurrection. There are five parts given about the gospel. He says in verse three, he said,

1 Corinthians 15:3 KJV - For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins,

Part one. Christ died for our sins. So we found out the atoning death of Jesus Christ, Him dying for our sins, and Him dying in our place, not just a death, but Him dying for our sins. I seen a Christian so-called movie one time, and they were showing how that Jesus could have died any kind of death and what if Jesus came today and all this other stuff, and they had a guy and they ended up putting him in the electric chair. And I thought my goodness man, listen, that's blasphemous, that's blasphemous. I thought they said that was a Christian movie, listen, he died for our sins. He died a particular death that the Bible prophesied of, that He would die in that particular way, that they'd bruise His hands and His feet. And we find out that He died for our sins, part one.

Part two, according to the scriptures. That's very important right there. Did you know that there's a lot of people that believe that Jesus died? And they're lost, because they don't believe it according to the scriptures. They think He just died. You'll find out, that if you go to the wisest people, so-called in this world, you can go to Steven Hawking, and you can go to the Barak Obama's of this world, and they all believe that Jesus died. They just don't believe it's according to this book. Third thing in the gospel, in verse four, he says,

1 Corinthians 15:4 KJV - And that he was buried,

So we got the death, we got the scripture, and we got the burial. Christ was buried. He literally was buried in a grave. He was dead, and they placed Him in a tomb. They sealed the tomb door shut. They wrapped Him in grave clothing, and put Him in there. He was dead and they buried Him. I notice as we look at that thing, that's part three. Then he says in verse four 1 Corinthians 15:4 KJV - and that he rose again the third day,

Part four. What does that tell me? That tells me out of all of them, listen, hey, what makes Christianity different than every religion in this world? Our founder did not stay dead. Communism's founder, dead, still dead. Muslim's founder, dead, still dead. Hey it's Jehovah, not Allah. Man, listen, hey listen, God rose His Son from the dead. Hey, listen, when we get to all these cults, our listen, our Saviour rose from the dead. They don't even teach He came in the flesh. That's how you tell a devil's over that thing according to First John chapter four, they don't confess Christ in the flesh. They think He was an apparition. Well, that's the funniest

apparition I've ever seen, listen, this apparition wasn't an apparition, it was God in the flesh, according to the scriptures. And he died, was buried and He rose again the third day. Part five, 1 Corinthians 15:4 KJV - according to the scriptures:

Let's do the math here. Twice "according to the scriptures". God gives no more witness about this gospel more so than in this book, than He does anywhere in this world. A lot of people have got to the point, where they think that their life is such a shining example of the gospel that they leave out the Bible. I've seen superstars and celebrities get saved by the same grace it took for you and I to get saved. Their sins washed with the same blood. Us believing the same Saviour. And they put them on tour and they know nothing of the gospel so they get up and for a solid hour talk about themselves. No wonder you find that crowd going back out and fooling with the things of this world. They never get grounded in the faith. Hey, to be grounded in the faith is to get in on God's plan of the Resurrection. And God's number one reference is that plan, the death, burial and resurrection, according to the scriptures, and according to the scriptures. Twice, hey it says it twice, cause God's witness to the Resurrection is not in photographs, it's not in some kind of burial cloth, it's in the scriptures. See, listen, then we've got the map here. We've got two times that says one thing, and the other three times refers to this. Three in the Bible is the number for God. Only God could do what happened right here. Do you know that nobody's got up from the dead but Him? You say wait a minute, now I was down in Rock Hill and few weeks ago and this Southern Baptist church had this guy and he said he come back from the dead. Yeah, and he told a few weeks ago he lied about that. You know why he done that? Because people are gullible. They're looking for anything to replace God with. There was a lady wrote a book a number of years ago called "Embraced by the Light". She said she died and went to heaven. Saw the you know, the lighted tunnel, and all this other stuff and got down there, and there was God and Saint Peter at the gate and all that other garbage. But there were two versions of that book. One written for the residents of Utah and one written for the residents outside of Utah. She was a Mormon. She lied. Here's how I know that. If you could come back from the dead, you wouldn't. I've heard, listen, I've heard the sweetest old grandmas say well I want to come back for my grandkids. Honey, once you took a good look at that Saviour, and you saw Him, you'd about forget you had grandkids. You'd say Lord God Almighty and you'd start bowing down before Him and say, listen you're the best thing that ever happened to me. Say what about the grandkids? We'll take care of them. Lord is their names over there in the book? I want to be up here with you. But I notice every time one of this bunch says they died and come back from the dead, they never appear with Christ instantly. They always go through a tunnel, and go through this, and go through... This Bible says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. You check out on this side and you check in in the throne room of God and there you'll be. Listen, they'll about have to run you out of the throne room to get you to go to your mansion. You know why? Cause a thousand years with the Lord is like one day, you'll spend the first day just saying thank you, Jesus.

I see here the plan of the Resurrection is according to the scriptures, is according to the scriptures, the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Then we see here the second reference to the Resurrection. He starts in verse five and gives the partakers of the Resurrection. You and I, because He died and rose from the dead, we get to partake in that. Look in verse five, and he says,

1 Corinthians 15:5 KJV - And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

1 Corinthians 15:6 KJV - 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.

By AD 59, when Paul's writing this, those five hundred witnesses that saw Him, he's indicating that over three hundred of them are still alive. Do you know how many it would have took for them witnesses to get a conviction in court? The fact that Christ rose from the dead? Only two. God made sure He had plenty there to see it. He said,

1 Corinthians 15:7 KJV - After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

Who's James? That's His half-brother. And the reason his name's mentioned is that he's the one that got saved. The rest of them didn't believe in Him. The rest of them didn't trust in Him. The rest of them didn't know Him as the Saviour; they just knew Him as half-brother. But I see here, He showed up to James,

1 Corinthians 15:7 KJV - then of all the apostles.

And it says in verse eight,

1 Corinthians 15:8 KJV - And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time

What's he referring to there? He was seen of me. What, what? He listen, Paul had to be qualified to be an apostle, and one of the qualifications is you have to see Christ in the flesh Resurrected. That changes people. And I turn on the TV sometimes, and if I'm going by, I see these people on TV that got hairdos that cost more than my car, they're on a TV program begging for money, and if you were to question that crowd about their so-called apostleship, here's what they'd say, Oh, I've seen him, I shaved with him in the mirror this morning, and all this other garbage. Yeah, isn't that something? And the most amazing thing about it is none of them's changed. Paul was changed because he saw the Resurrected Christ. Peter was changed because he saw the Resurrected Christ. Doubting Thomas became faithful Thomas because he saw the Resurrected Christ. You'll never find a one of them who saw the Resurrected Christ out on the street corner saying, if you don't send your little five, what was that money they had back then? What was it called? The rubles or whatever it was. Shekels, shekels, that's it. If you don't give me five shekels, I'll have to leave this street corner. You never saw them doing that. You never saw them saying if they didn't get no money God was gonna kill em. You never saw an apostle doing that. But what you did find an apostle doing was preaching about that Resurrected Christ. And they talked about it as if it was a fact they knew, and why? Cause they knew it.

1 Corinthians 15:8 KJV - And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time

What is he referring to there? There is coming a national time, listen, the Rapture of the Church is going to take place, God's gonna pull the Holy Spirit and the Church out of here, He's gonna turn His attention back to the Jew. Jeremiah 30:7, that's the time of Jacob's trouble, there is coming a day when Christ comes at the end of that tribulation, and there's gonna be a national salvation for that Jew right then. There is the due time, Paul said I was born out of due time. He didn't make Pentecost, and he's not gonna make that cause he's not gonna live long enough, he said, but I was born out of due time, he was referring to himself being a Jew. And he points out about that in verse number nine, he says,

1 Corinthians 15:9 KJV - For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

When's the last time you heard a preacher get up and say I used to make fun of y'all before I got in here? That don't help get them shekels in that cup, does it? He said this, but by the grace of God in verse ten, here's where, listen, ninety-five of all Hollywood's in the Bible. I am what I am, Popeye stole it straight from verse ten. That comes from the scripture. He said, 1 Corinthians 15:10 KJV - But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain;

Why was that Paul? He says,
1 Corinthians 15:10 KJV - but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

What happened to him? He got a little dose of yet not I. Yet not I, but Christ. Hey, listen, hey, he finally found out something. He persecuted the Church, he attacked Christ's body, and then one day the Lord showed up to him. What did He show up in? Resurrection power. And He showed up there on that Damascus road, and two things happened to him that happens to every disciple of the Lord. A disciple is a follower. Here's one, number one, they recognize who He is. Lord. No man can say that Jesus is the Lord except but by the Holy Ghost. What do you call that? Old time, Holy Ghost conviction, and old time Resurrection power showing up all at the same time on Damascus road to go after probably the worst sinner that people probably thought they'd ever seen. A guy that would have people, listen, he didn't have murders drug in front of the court. He didn't have a, he didn't have a basketball player who raped a woman brought in there to be tried. He didn't go out there and get the child molester. No, huhn, he went and got the guy that used to drink and got out of that thing, cause Christ saved him. Oh no, you've gotta go to court and be put to death. Boy, I'm gonna tell you something, they persecute Christians left and right all over this world. But we've got the only message that'll change people's lives. The only one and it all has to do with that very Resurrection of Christ. Hey, the partakers, you know what happens to us? When we partake of His Resurrection, hey, we get that power. That's why Jesus said all power is given to Me in heaven and in earth. When do we get it? When we got in. Cause you can't get Him without getting the power. Go tell your second blessing friends I said so. You can't get in on that without getting in on Him and when you get in on Him, you get in on that. I see very particularly these partakers out of all of em, he says this,
1 Corinthians 15:10 KJV - yet not I,

More times than not that the biggest problem people have with Christianity is never Jesus. It's not Him they have a problem with. It's us. That false prophet Mahatma Gandhi said this; the problem with Christianity is Christians. You know what I say about that? A broke clock's right twice a day. I read the other day where John Calvin said you've gotta study the Bible and let the scriptures speak for themselves without adding to em. I thought Lord have mercy. A broke clock's right twice a day. I've, listen, I've heard people say this stuff, and they'll say well I don't understand quite this that and the other. I'm gonna tell you something. When God gives you this thing right here and you accept Christ, you understand. You understand this, you didn't deserve it, you didn't earn it, you didn't work for it, yet not I, but Him. It's Him that done it. He partook of Resurrection power. They's people comes up all the time and they're old drunks and everything else, that knew me from years ago. How did you do that? It's easy, I didn't. If I could have, I'd never needed Christ. But these people come up and say, oh I would go to church if it wasn't for such-and-such that goes to church. Well here's

something for ya, go to a different one. And you know what you're gonna find in that one? If they're a hell fire, damnation, Bible believing, mission sending church, you're gonna find they's a devil in that one just like in that one you don't want to go to. Why is that? Because the devil attacks the things of God. And mark this down, the closer you get to God, the closer you gonna get to the devil, cause he don't want you to get close to the Lord. But I see when we're partakers of that Resurrection, we get in on God's plan, we got God's power behind us, and nothing can stop us from doing what God tells us to do. Amen, friend. I see also in not only the reference to the Resurrection, the plan and the partakers of the Resurrection, but he's gonna pick up there in verse eleven, and deal with the preaching of the Resurrection. Here's what he says about it under the divine inspiration of God, he said,

1 Corinthians 15:11 KJV - Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

That's how you get the job done. The preaching of the Resurrection. I see he says in verse twelve,

1 Corinthians 15:12 KJV - Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Back again to verse three, look at verse three again, verse two, excuse me,

1 Corinthians 15:2 KJV - By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

What's the difference in verse two and verse twelve? Here it is belief. You gotta believe. And when you believe and accept Christ, according to the scriptures, there's just something that God does in your life, by placing the Holy Spirit inside you, taking that old dead spirit inside you and bringing it up from the dead. He saves your soul from hell, according to Colossians, He circumcises your soul from your flesh, and listen to this, I means there's all kind of things happen like that and we got a disciple on our hands, that's a believer, that's been delivered from the, from the sentence of hell. And that believer, because they're a disciple, now listen, they're in love with Christ, they believe in Him, and they can't explain everything about it, but they know, honey listen, let me tell you something, listen, I love coconut cake more than I do probably anything in this world. The Clock makes the best one, it's got about five or ten layers, I can't even count em, or maybe it's two pieces of cake I had, and stacked one on top of the other. I can't have that stuff like I want it on this side of the grave, but they's coming a time in Heaven, they's gonna be a time when we're gonna get in on that thing. But I'm not gonna get to Heaven and ask questions it about there either, I'm just gonna get in there, I ain't gonna try and figure out how you do it. Listen, me and Brandon tried to make a cake one time. It come out looking like this (showing extreme sloping from side to side), but it come out tasting good. I'm gonna tell you friend, men just shouldn't be in there doing that stuff. But we was in there, and we made that thing up, and we was putting stuff in that cake, and I couldn't believe some of the stuff we put in that coconut cake. It was a dear old granny from Tennessee's recipe, where I'd preached revival up there. I could not believe some of the stuff we put in there. Listen, because we's men and she come out looking wrong, but she come out tasting good. Listen, hey I don't understand what all was in that and why you put certain things in there, the first thing I thought when they said was crack an egg, I thought for what? I'm thinking, listen, where's the bacon go with that? Then it said put some salt in it, and I said, salt? In a cake? We're putting that other white powder in there, what's wrong with this one, what's

up? But what I'm telling you is this; I don't understand how all that works, I just know that it does. I am a partaker of it. The plan of the thing was written out. I'm a partaker of it, and because of that listen, I've got some good preaching about it too. You want some right now don't you? Little flecks of coconut all over that thing, all creamed up in there, cut that thing down through there, boy I'm meddling now, sure enough. Everybody's done got hungry on us all of a sudden. And you pull that big old hunk outta there and it's stacked up like that and you look at that thing and the next thing you think of is this, my lips smacking the top of my mouth so hard, I'm about to have a bruise inside my face. I'm telling you, listen. And we get to preaching about this, same thing applies. I cannot understand the physiological happenings that happened down there at the tomb the morning that Christ got up from the grave. But I do know that He did. Say how do you know? I'm a partaker of it. Now that I'm a partaker of it, I'm a preacher of it. See this message still works. I understand this because when I was lost, they would preach things to me that I wouldn't understand, but God was putting a seed in there about the Resurrection. The night I got saved, I barely knew anything about the Bible other than the fact of this. God's Son got up from the dead. He didn't say in Romans ten, verse, Romans chapter ten, verse ten, that if you believe in the intricate delicacies of every doctrine of the Bible, thou shalt be saved. He said if you believed that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. There's the preaching of the Resurrection. When we get to that thing, we see the preaching of the Resurrection, we see Paul said now if you didn't believe, he said, hey, if you didn't believe, and you didn't believe according to the scriptures, that's your problem. He said, this kind of preaching works cause it's the one about Him and you believe Him according to the scriptures. Most times than not, listen, people in America now days, we have so many people that are not raised right and so many con artists, that we have people come in and if they want something, they know the language now days. All they gotta do is tell us, I just got saved, and we'll just hand them money and pay power bills and water bills, and gambling debts and everything else. That's what we do. But you know what Paul said? If you got the preaching of the Resurrection here, they'll fall in love with Jesus instead of them material things every time. I can't explain it to you, how he says all that properly without saying this, he said in verse thirteen,

1 Corinthians 15:13 KJV - But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

1 Corinthians 15:14 KJV - And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

1 Corinthians 15:15 KJV - 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.

Hey, if we're gonna be partakers of it, and it didn't happen, we're in trouble. Here's why,

1 Corinthians 15:16 KJV - For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

1 Corinthians 15:17 KJV - And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:18 KJV - Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

They're dead too, they ain't coming back. He said,

1 Corinthians 15:19 KJV - If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

I've had people try to tell me over the years, they'll say something like this, now what if you boys is wrong about that Resurrection and Christ isn't what He says? Well honey, I'm

gonna tell you something, this is the strangest false thing I've ever seen in my life. Strangest one I've ever run into. Here's why. When I was lost there were things I wanted to do that I couldn't. I didn't have it in me to do em. But the things that the world and the Bible both would say is sin, I would have no problem doing them. But when I got saved, I partook of this Resurrection, because somebody preached about it and I got in on it. And I seen what God's plan was, the death, burial and Resurrection of Christ, He died for my sins, I accepted God's plan according to the scriptures, and the strangest thing happened. Now them things that came easy, I didn't wanna do em, but them things I used to couldn't do, now I could do every one of them. It was that easy. I don't know about you, but I've been sick five times in twenty years where I couldn't come to the house of God. Five times. Twice it snowed so bad I couldn't get here. One time was in the nineties, we sat at home and Doctor Wilton of First Baptist of Spartanburg got up there and lectured the first ten minutes with only three people in that big old church and said this, Dear brethren, if you tithe, mark your tithe down and set it aside for the local church next week and put it with next weeks tithe so when you go there you'll have your tithe with you. Now what about that? Well I could hear TV's switching off all across Cherokee, Greenville, Spartanburg County at my house. How dare he get up and preach on money when we're all sitting at the house. Yeah, how dare he? I'm gonna tell you what, I don't know about you, but I got my tithe out, this was nineteen ninety five, ninety six and wrote on it that one this was last weeks, next weeks will be coming next week. Why? Resurrection power, honey. Christ didn't die in vain. He died, He rose again the third day, I believed on Him, that's not my tithe, that's His. I used to wouldn't do that you understand? You know why? I didn't believe in Him. Now I'm a partaker, I heard God's plan, I heard the preaching of it, and when he got to preaching about that thing, I got under conviction about tithing so bad, I thought that had to do with the death, burial and Resurrection of Christ, and boy in a certain way it does. You just don't have to do it to be saved, but because you're saved you will want to do it. But I notice this, when you get along through life and when you see the preaching of the Resurrection we come to the conclusion of this, that somehow and some way that's the right kind of preaching. I know that when we're given the chance to stand up in front of liberals and modernists and all this other bunch, uh, there's things we'd like to tell em. I had a list together one time of things that I saw that Peter preached to the liberals. And it was amazing what that list was. Death, burial and Resurrection of the Saviour for their sins. I noticed when he got up and preached to em, he didn't say our sins, he said your sins. Paul was the same way. He wasn't a we preacher, he was a you preacher. Meaning this, Christ, listen Christ already saved Paul, now he was putting the message on them. There's nothing more sickening in the world than some pantywaist preacher talking about we need to get saved. Honey listen, if you ain't saved, you need to sit down. You ain't, there's no way you know that you was called to preach in the fifth grade and now you got saved when you's forty, and, and, you know God's been calling you to preach since you's in the fifth grade. That's against the scripture. That's not according to the scripture. The preaching of the Resurrection works like this, listen, God sends you a witness of the gospel through the Word of God, when you hear the Resurrection, you hear about that thing, the Holy Ghost convicts you of that thing, you either believe it or reject it. If you believe in and you accept Christ's plan for your life, and His plan is that you let Him pay for your sins and listen, you accept His payment then all of a sudden you're a partaker in His Resurrection, and then you want to get in on the preaching of the Resurrection, too. I used to

go, listen, on Sunday afternoons I'd go out to this church that had a service at five o'clock and our service was at seven, I'd go out there especially when they had them old men come in and preach revival. Listen, they preached on the same thing every week. The death, burial and Resurrection of Christ and I couldn't get enough of it. I can't explain to you, listen, I've heard em all, I've heard Phil Kidd, Lavon Boatner, you name it, I've heard every one of em. And I'll say this, when they preached on the cross, they preached on the partakers of this thing, and God's plan of it, there was somebody inside me that's was not me, thank God it was Him, and He'd want to say amen, He'd want to get in on that thing, He'd want to shout about that, and He'd want to take me back in my mind to where I was when God found me, and how God just swooped down in that mud hole and got me out of that thing, set me on that Solid Rock, and now I'm part of that preaching, thank God. Listen, hey, you don't have to be called to preach to preach this and tell everybody about it. Tell everybody how He got up from the dead. And it was according to the scriptures. Lot of false religions that have talked about come Easter time, we want to have a conference with you. We want to have a Bible study with you, and tell you about the true meaning of the Resurrection. No honey, the true meaning of the Resurrection is not in any watch tower tract or society publication, it's not in any doctrinal covens, Pearl of Great Price, the Book of Mormon. It's not in any apostle's creed like it should be; it's all in the scripture how He died for our sins, according to the scripture. I find out they's a lot of people who believe He died. They's a lot of people who believe He was buried and rose again, but they don't believe it according to the scriptures. Say how do you know? Here's the difference. If you believe according to the scriptures, that He died for your sins, that's only part of the message. That's only part. When you believe that God raised Him from the dead, according to the scriptures, here's the part that's different. When He saves a sinner, He changes a sinner. That's fact, Genesis to Revelation. Every time God interacts with a lost man, and after that point, that person's different. Say how so? We read about Adam and Eve this morning. Were they different after chapter three when He walked through the garden in the cool of the day? You better believe it because He confronted them for what they'd done. When we find Him slaying those two animals to make coats of skin to clothe them, they were different, you know why? Cause they come out wearing a different robe than they walked in wearing. They walked in with leaves and walked out in furs, amen? Tell your PETA friends that one. Amen, listen. Hey when we find, listen when we find all these people in the Bible and they's lost, God reach in and save somebody, they come out different every time. God changes lives where He saves souls. And that's the preaching of the Resurrection. Listen, what should we believe and teach in the church? It's real simple. Believe and preach and teach that He died for our sins, according to the scriptures. That He was buried and that He rose again the third day, according to the scriptures, and listen to this, we're not found false witnesses of God. There's too many changed lives in this building for that. We've got more than we need for court right now if we were gonna take this thing to court. The fact that Jesus is alive and well on planet earth. And He's living through His people. Let's stand with every head bowed and every eye closed. No one looking around. Father, we love ya, Lord we thank ya for the time to meet in the house of God. Lord pray right now, God, that while we're here, Lord that you'll use our time together, Lord God, that somehow and some way, during this time, Lord there maybe somebody here tonight doesn't know You. You and them know it. I pray God you'll save em before we leave this place so that Lord they may get in on the death, burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

His atoning death according to the scriptures. His rising from the dead, according to the scriptures. And Lord, pray God, that You'll help the Christian tonight. Lord, help us to take in this very plain message tonight. Four point four grade level, Lord God that we may be able to be strengthened, encouraged, and know that our faith is not in vain. Lord that we know that we've met a risen Saviour. We look back to a time in our life in which we got saved. And how God you've changed our lives since that time. And Father, I pray God that You'll move and do a great work, in Jesus' precious name we pray and for His sake.