1 Corinthians 15:12-19

# The Resurrection Effect

# Life-changing implications of the resurrection: Part 1- Sins Forgiven

Some stains can't be shifted - so too with the wrongs we do in our lives.

There is good news...

We are thinking about the first life-changing implication of the resurrection of Jesus: **Sins Forgiven**

Focussing on 1 Cor 15v17...

Paul is saying the resurrection is essential for sins forgiven. Why?

3 steps in the logic:

**1. Sin deserves death**

* The Old Testament people of God would have known this well.
* God gave them his commandments - how they should live.
* Jesus summarised the commandments as:
  + Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
  + Love your neighbour as yourself.
* If they disobeyed God's commandments (i.e. sinned) they were to take an animal to the temple.
* The animal was killed in their place.
* So the link was well established - sin deserves death.
* So too for us...Romans 6v23 'For the wages of sin is death...'

Does that feel a bit harsh? A couple of things to consider:

* Don't forget God gives life - everyone alive has received life as a gift from God. So it isn't wrong for God to take life. It is also not wrong for God to stop giving gifts to those who reject him by disobeying him.
* In the end it doesn't matter how we feel about it - it is God's view that matters most. If He says sin deserves death then that is what happens, it doesn't actually make a difference whether I like it or not.

(We also need to recognise that the Bible isn't saying that someone dies because they are more sinful than someone else. It is more general than that - there is death in the world because mankind has sinned against God.)

**2. Christ died for sins**

Go back to 1Corinthians 15v3

* The animals killed in the temple never actually dealt with sin (see Hebrews 10v4)
* When Jesus first came on the scene John the Baptist said 'look the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.'
* Jesus would properly deal with sin - but how?
* By dying, of course.
* He is the ultimate sacrifice - the lamb - who takes our sin and dies for us

This is great news - our stains, our sins, can be dealt with

This is also an incredible act of love

* we have been moved by many courageous acts recently of people risking their lives to help those suffering from Coronavirus.
* Jesus knew that to deal with our sin would cost him his life.
* He was prepared to make that sacrifice for us.

**3. If Jesus really dealt with sin he could not stay dead**

We come back to 1Corinthians 15v17

* Paul is saying if Jesus didn't rise we are still in our sins - why?
* Remember the first 2 steps - sin deserves death and Jesus died for our sins
* if Jesus remains dead it can only mean that he hasn't actually dealt with our sins - they must still be on him
* But if he has dealt with sins - really, fully dealt with them, then he cannot stay dead.
* As it says in Acts 2 'it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him'
* Jesus' resurrection is an essential declaration of victory over sin.

Imagine (and we pray this will happen)...

* Imagine a treatment is found for Coronavirus that is 100% effective.
* On the day that it is shown to be effective on the steps of the hospital are the medics and behind them rows of people who had been seriously ill but now completely better.
* Just looking at the rows of well patients would be a declaration that the virus had been defeated.

So too...Jesus' resurrection is an essential declaration that sins have been fully dealt with.

So - not yet a Christian?

* Jesus' death and resurrection show he can fully deal with the stains in your life.
* Will you come to Jesus to take your punishment for you and die your death for you for your sins? (If not you still have your sins on you and so will face the death/punishment that sins deserve)

Christian?

* Know that the resurrection shows your sins have been completely paid for!
* Your sins are not still on Jesus.
* He is not still suffering for your sins.
* If they were still on Jesus he would still be dead (because sin deserves death)
* So we need to know that the resurrection means all our past wrongs have been fully dealt with - the stains are completely removed.
* When we sin we need to confess our sins to God, remember Jesus' death for us and look to the resurrection which declares they have been fully paid for.

Implication of Jesus' resurrection 1: Sins Forgiven

Come back next week for implication 2...