

## ***Eleutheros Newsletter***

October 2019

### **News of Interest**

God willing, Eleutheros Books will soon expand its “Eternal Truth” ministry. To date, there have been 30-minute podcasts on various subjects; in future days there will be short YouTube videos on Biblical themes and issues. Learn more about this in future newsletters.

To listen to the podcasts, go to the website: [www.eleutherosbooks.com](http://www.eleutherosbooks.com) and then click on Eternal Truth Podcasts.”

A resource for Christians!

<http://www.eleutherosbooks.com>

Free newsletter, Global Book Fund, Soulwinning seminar, Books by yours truly, Coming soon: Eleutheros School of Theology

### ***Continued Thoughts on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ***

*John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him Who is, and Which was, and Which is to come, and from the seven spirits which are before the throne; And from Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead... ([Revelation 1:4-5a](#)).*

**[Romans 10:9-10](#)**. *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

In these verses the Apostle Paul explains what happens at conversion.

Notice the word “confession” here. The Greek verb is *homologeō*, meaning “to take the same attitude, to say the same thing.” When a person is presented with the glorious Gospel message and is under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, he needs to take the same attitude about Jesus and His work on the cross that the Father has.

In other words, that person should understand and eagerly believe that he is a sinner who can be saved by God’s grace. God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” ([II Peter 3:9](#)). When such a person believes *in his heart* that Jesus rose from the dead to make His offer of eternal life legitimate, he will be saved!

Having been born again, the new believer does well to make a profession of his salvation before others. In time that believer should also endeavor to win others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Notice what Paul says a few verses later (in [Romans 10:14-18](#)): “How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the Gospel. For Esaias saith. Lord, who hath believed our report? So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes, verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.”

The resurrection is crucial in being saved in the first place and should be a major theme as we present the Gospel to all who will hear it!

[I Corinthians 6:14](#). *And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will raise up us by His own power.*

Earlier in this chapter Paul said, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” ([I Corinthians 6:9-11](#)).

To many these are “horrible sins.” Some might even consider them to be unforgivable. Thank God for [Romans 5:20](#), “Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound”!

When sin runs into God’s grace it does not win!

Paul wants to assure people who have gotten saved from these backgrounds (frankly, that is *all of us!*) that he will raise them up because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

[I Corinthians 15:3-4](#). *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again according to the Scriptures.*

Notice that Paul says he delivered the simple Gospel message “first of all.”

He was not “ashamed of the Gospel” ([Romans 1:16](#)) and made himself “all things to all men” in reaching lost people ([I Corinthians 9:22](#)).

The message was consistent. Christ died. Christ was buried. Christ rose again. These truths never change and were delivered *according to the Scriptures*. So, few today are as zealous to present this basic Biblical message. Paul made sure he did so “first of all”!

Just as important, He did all this “according to the Scriptures.” While humor, personal testimonies, and answering questions about other matters may have their place, we must remember ultimately that “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” ([Romans 10:17](#)).

The reason we can have assurance in the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that we are basing it on the clear revelation about it from the Bible, God's holy Word!

**[Romans 15:12f](#)**. *Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

The question about resurrections springs naturally from the proof of the fact of the resurrection of Christ (note verses 1-11 of this chapter) and the continual preaching which Paul here assumes. "If Christ be preached" would well be translated "since Christ is constantly preached that He rose...."

There were sceptics in Corinth, possibly in the church, who denied the resurrection of dead people just as some men today deny that miracles happen or ever did happen. Paul's answer is the resurrection of Christ as a fact. It all turns on this fact!

"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen" ([I Corinthians 15:13](#)). Paul here is insisting that there *is* such a thing as the resurrection from the dead because if the contrary is true, Jesus is dead.

He goes on to explain how serious this really is. If He has not raised, 1. Our preaching is vain. 2. Our faith is vain. 3. We are false witnesses. 4. We are all still lost in our sin. These are thoughts from [I Corinthians 15: 14-17](#).

What would be the value of preaching a lie or suffering for something that never happened!? More important, if Christ did not rise from the grave, we have no hope of eternal life! How could a dead Savior honestly say that those who believe in Him will "never perish" ([John 3:16](#))?

On the other hand, "now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept" ([15:20](#)). He rose first; believers will rise after Him.

Paul's argument here is basically this: how could a risen, holy, eternal, loving Savior NOT offer eternal life!?

Paul continues by sharing illustrations in [15:35-44](#).

He is again refuting the argument that there can be no resurrection from the dead ([15:35](#)).

Obviously, seeds are dead before they spring forth with life ([15:36](#)) and what comes forth is something quite different from what was originally sown ([15:37-38](#)): "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: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body."

Paul goes on to say that the resurrection of the bodies of believers should be likened to the sowing of seeds in the ground. "So also, is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption: it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” ([1 Corinthians 15:42-44](#)). Jesus Himself likened the sowing of seed to the preaching of the Gospel in Matthew 13.

Then Paul describes Jesus as a “second Adam”: “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthly; the second man is the Lord from heaven” ([1 Corinthians 15:45-47](#)).

Paul is using simple illustrations to emphasize the glorious truth of eternal life in a glorified body. A natural picture-- Seeds are sown as lifeless, yet they produce grain by God’s power. A picture from history-- Adam sinned; that fact caused depravity in all and therefore death. Jesus, however, came as a man Who produces life because He rose again!

Next, Paul explains an important theological truth. “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption” ([1 Corinthians 15:50](#)). We cannot save ourselves, but those who believe in Jesus “shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed” ([1 Corinthians 15:51](#)). Jesus’ resurrection causes this miracle to take place “in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump” ([1 Corinthians 15:52](#)).

Paul concludes by offering great hope. “For this corruption must put on incorruption, and this mortal must Paul on immortality. So, when this corruptible shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, Which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” ([1 Corinthians 15:53-57](#)). Such great hope surely has a practical application: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” ([1 Corinthians 15:58](#))!

We will continue these thoughts on the resurrection of our Savior in next month’s newsletter.