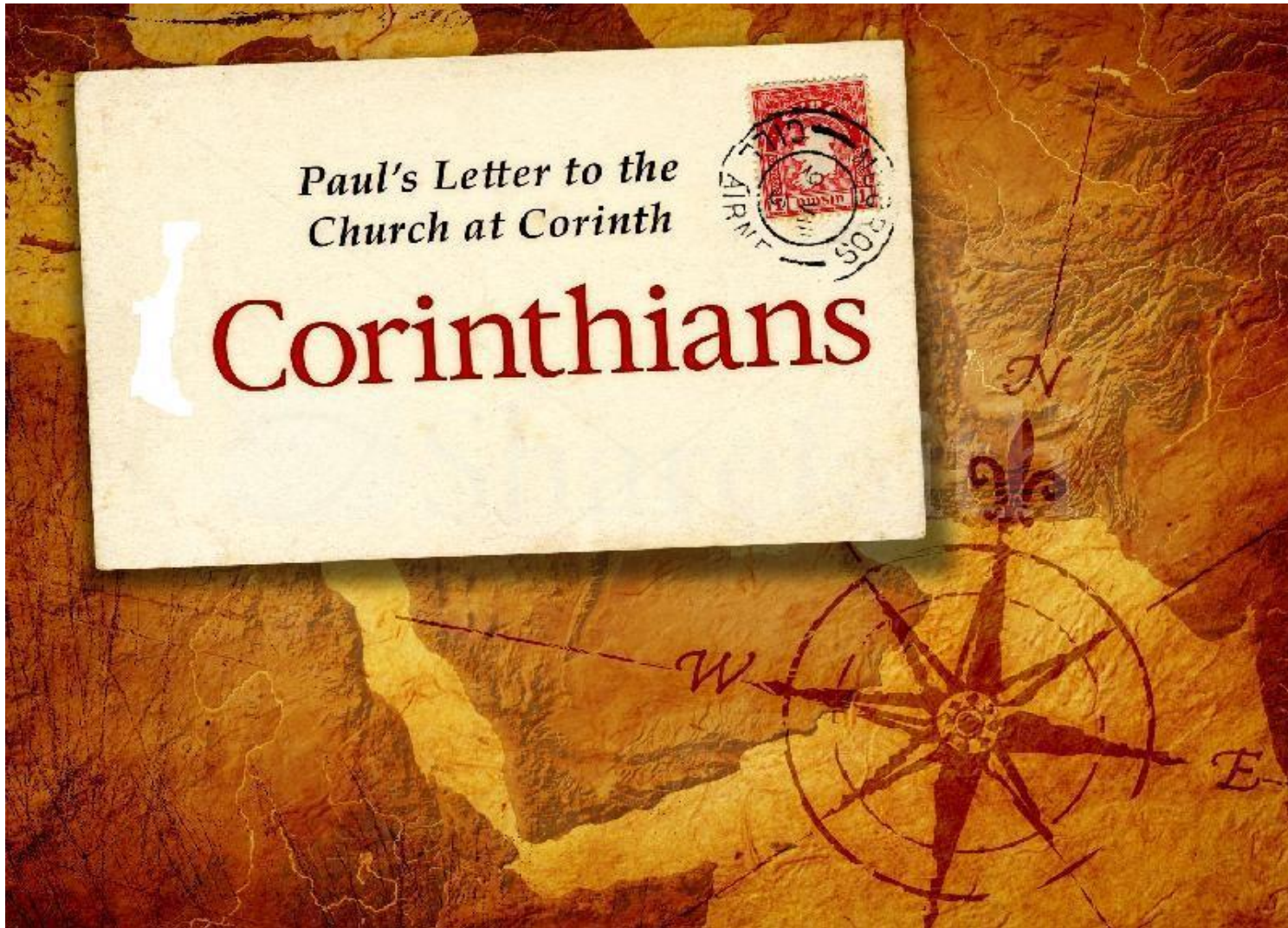


# 1 Cor.15:29-34 Denial of the Resurrection [Paul's Final Thoughts]



# Outline\*

## The Implications of the Denial of the Resurrection

1. The Implications of Those Baptized for the Dead v:29
2. The Implications for Those Who Suffer v:30-32
3. Obligations Imposed by the Doctrine of the Resurrection v:33-34

## Today's Verses

29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?

30 Why are we also in danger every hour?

31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

32 If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.

33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

34 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?

Paul now returns to the question about the dead being raised!

otherwise – *epei* - this word marks the return to the theme of “if there is no resurrection of the dead”

Several questions are asked by Paul in this verse 29

- These questions concern baptism for the dead.
- This verse probably refers to proxy baptism, the custom of undergoing baptism for someone who died before he or she could experience baptism. Constable

<sup>29</sup> Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?

If the dead are not raised at all

If – assumed to be true for the sake of argument

assuming that the dead are not actually raised up Wuest

- The assumption is that there is no real resurrection.

Two questions are asked by Paul based on this assumption in verse 29.

These questions seem to be based on what was the practice of the Corinthian church.

29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?

#1 - What will those do who are baptized for the dead?

verb: will those do – *poieō* - figuratively of persons to profit, advantage, or gain

what do people mean by being [themselves] baptized in behalf of the dead Amplified

being baptized – present tense, passive voice

If the dead are not raised their efforts [of being baptized] are in vain assuming you believe baptism for the dead is a valid practice.

<sup>29</sup> Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized **for** the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized **for** them?

## **#2 - Why then are they baptized for them?**

Why waste your time if they are really dead with no hope of resurrection.

### **another view of verse 29\***

First, the word **for** [*huper*] is a preposition indicating substitution—taking the place of another.

Living believers are seen as taking the place of the dead ones [in the work of the ministry].

As believers die, new ones come along and fill up the ranks—they are “baptized in the place of dead believers.”

\* McCalley

## SALVATION & WATER BAPTISM \*

- a. Water baptism is not required for salvation.
  - Salvation is by God's grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8,9; Acts 16:30, 31
  - Salvation is through the person & work of the Lord Jesus Christ & not through any ritual (circumcision, baptism in water, confirmation, etc.) Acts 4:12; 15:1-5, 24
- b. Water baptism always followed salvation (the baptism by the Holy Spirit) – A person was saved by faith in Christ and then baptized in water.
- c. In Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-18 - Observe!
  - They believed in Christ - His person  
and His work on the Cross
  - At that moment they received the indwelling Holy Spirit.
  - Then after they were saved they were baptized in water.
  - Water baptism had nothing to do with their salvation.

\* Hal Molloy



<sup>30</sup> Why are we also in danger every hour?

Given that there is no resurrection of the dead:

<sup>30</sup> [For that matter], why do I live [dangerously as I do, running such risks that I am] in peril every hour?

Amplified

2 Cor 11:23 Are they servants of Christ?

I [Paul] speak as if insane.

I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

<sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*.

<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods,

once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked,

a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

<sup>30</sup> Why are we also in danger every hour?

2 Cor 11:26 / [Paul] *have been* on frequent journeys,  
in dangers from rivers,  
dangers from robbers,  
dangers from *my* countrymen,  
dangers from the Gentiles,  
dangers in the city,  
dangers in the wilderness,  
dangers on the sea,  
dangers among false brethren.

- He willingly faced death daily because he believed God would raise him and that his resurrected body would continue beyond the grave. Constable

31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

I am daily in danger of death by my glorying about you, brethren, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. Wuest

**Paul's attitude about boasting/glorying:**

Gal 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Rom 15:17 Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God.

Rom 8:36 Just as it is written, "For your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

- Paul backed up this assertion with a kind of oath.
- He said he faced death daily just as he boasted about the Corinthians.
- Probably he meant that he boasted in their very existence as Christians rather than that he boasted to other churches about their behavior. Constable

<sup>32</sup> If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.

If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus

If - If, as is the case (Wuest)

human motive – lit: according to man

I fought with wild beasts - Probably he uses the word figuratively of contending with ferocious men. (Vine)

example: Demetrius causes uproar at Ephesus.

Acts 19:28-29 When they [the crowd] heard *this* and were filled with rage, they *began* crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" - they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

32 If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.

what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised,

- without hope why live

Eph 2:12 *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ-- having no hope and without God in the world.

Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.

- Belief in the resurrection was more than a truth; it was a moral safeguard. McCalley
- If this life is all there is, then it is logical to cram all the pleasure into it that we can. McCalley
- Man according to God's design is body, soul and spirit – that's why the resurrection is so critical.

<sup>33</sup> Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Stop being led astray (Wuest)

This verse assumes the action is already going on.

deceived - planaō – “to deceive, by leading into error, to seduce, often it has the sense of deceiving oneself

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

<sup>15</sup> Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Paul turns to Greek literature and quotes from Menander's comedy *Thais* saying, **Bad company corrupts good morals.**

McCalley

- Menander (c. 342/41 – c. 290 BC) was a Greek dramatist and the best-known representative of Athenian New Comedy.
- Therefore Paul used it [the quote] to warn his readers that if they kept company with people who denied the resurrection their character would eventually suffer.

Constable



<sup>34</sup> Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

Become sober-minded as you ought,

lit: Come to your senses, live righteously! Interlinear

stop sinning - sin no more – action already going on!

for some have no knowledge of God.

for certain ones possess an ignorance of God Wuest

I speak *this* to your shame.

- It was a shame that they had neighbors who still had no knowledge of God since they had much knowledge of God.
- He could have meant that his readers should sober up and stop sinning because some of them did not have the truth, which was to their shame. Constable

# Final Thoughts\*



There are three levels of fellowship with the Lord.

First, the fellowship that we have with Him now is in our body, soul, and spirit.

The body that we have now cannot enter heaven. For this reason, this first state of fellowship cannot last forever.

Second, there is the fellowship that we have with Him at death.

Soul and spirit go to be with the Lord, but the body goes to the grave.

# Final Thoughts\*



Third, there is the fellowship that we will have with Him at the resurrection.

Body, soul, and spirit will then be united to be with the Lord forever.

This is our hope, and we anticipate nothing less.

Being man does not end with this life; and where there is no body, soul, and spirit, there is no man.

\* McCalley