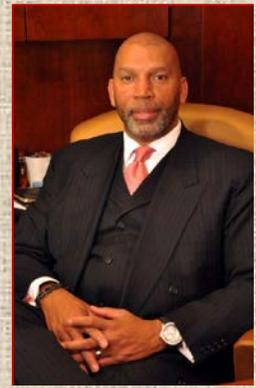


WORD FOR THE WEEK

April 20, 2014

Resurrection



"For this is the gospel that we preach; Christ died for sin according to the scripture, was buried and rose again on the third day according to the scriptures." These are the word of Paul who writes to explain the resurrection to the early church at Corinth. He dedicates chapter 15 to the theme of the Resurrection and in verses 3 and 4 he presents the gospel message in a nutshell.

This entire season is centered around the gospel; the good news that Jesus Christ has taken our sin debt and paid it in full. His death on the cross of Calvary was God's solution to humankind's sin problem. Because of sin, God was in Christ reconciling the world back to Himself. The cross of Calvary is central to our preaching and teaching, but so is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. No Resurrection, no hope. No Resurrection, our faith is in vain. No Resurrection, then we are still in our sins. No Resurrection, then our loved ones who have died in Christ have all died in vain. No Resurrection, then we are miserable and we might as well eat and drink, then die!

However, the bible teaches that Christ did rise from the dead and Luke states that there were many infallible proofs that Christ had risen from the dead (Acts 1:3.) The celebration of the third day after the crucifixion (actually the first day of the week) breathes new life into the believer. We are proclaimers of the gospel of the third day, for early Sunday morning He got up with all power in his hand.

This means the following; death was defeated at Calvary. The grave lost is ubiquitous power. Hell has no claim on the souls of the saints of the most High God. Our sins are forgiven and we are cleansed by the power of Jesus' blood. When we believe the gospel we are sealed unto the day of redemption and nothing can break that seal. And even if death should take us before the Lord's return, nothing will change because the dead in Christ will rise first. There is resurrection for the saints because Jesus was first to rise again and those who sleep in Him will also rise again.

That is our hope; therefore we are steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, because we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Thank God for the Resurrection!



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