

Introduction: We all know people who never seem to get a break in their lives. Whatever can go wrong seems to always go wrong. The line from the song: 'If it wasn't for bad luck, I wouldn't have no luck at all' applies to them. It is also true that the majority of people in the world struggle every day to keep their head above water. Due to this, it is easy to be pessimistic, and hard not to be a cynic. *** But, from beginning to end, the Bible gives good news from God to these people. God especially loves and protects those who are poor and needy (Deuteronomy 15:10-11; Psalm 113:5-9; Isaiah 25:1-4). He warns all who take advantage of the poor and needy that He will judge them (Deuteronomy 24:14-15; Ezekiel 22:28-31; Amos 4:1-3). And He commands His people to provide for the poor and needy, adding He will bless those who care for them (Deuteronomy 15:9-10; Jeremiah 22:15-16; Matthew 25:34-40). *** The Gospel of The Savior-Messiah, Jesus Christ, gives even more hope to poor and needy people. He died for our sins; and, He rose to give all who trust Him, and do His words by grace through faith, eternal, abundant and fruitful life IN Him (John 3, 10, 15). *** And, most of all, even though all people still die physically, those people who labor IN Christ will rise with new bodies to live with Him forever when He returns. This is what we heard from Paul's letter to Christians in churches in Corinth; and, Jesus said all who live by the faith of Abraham, the father of the faithful (Romans 4:16-17), are alive even now. *** Let's go deeper into this good news to all, even those experiencing the worst of life in this world.

I. The Gospel of the death and resurrection of Messiah; yet, some deny His resurrection to dire consequences.

(1 Corinthians 15:1-19)

- A. Paul is preaching The Gospel of Messiah's death for the sake of our sins, and His resurrection had been seen by many. *(Verses 1-11)*
1. I'm making known to you all brothers, The Gospel which I preached to you all, which also you all received and also you all had stood by means of which you all are being saved, which word I preached to you all; if you all are holding fast, except if in vain you all believed. *(Verses 1-2)*
Gospel: They are continually being saved by the word being preached. Because both verbs are passive, God is saving the people, and preaching through Paul.
Hold fast: They have the responsibility of holding fast to the Gospel so their faith is not in vain.
 2. For I delivered to you all what also first I received; that Christ surely died for the sake of our sins, was buried and rose again on the third day – all according to Scriptures; He was seen by Keifa, the twelve, five hundred brothers at one time – most still living, Jacob-James, then all the apostles. *(Verses 3-7)*
Content of Gospel: The heart of The Gospel is Messiah died to pay the price of our sins, and rose on the third day to give us His life, BOTH according to God's Word.
Seen by: Messiah was seen alive by many people at many times! Keifa is Aramaic for the Greek Petros. Since the five hundred came from many places and most are living, many can ask them. Here, apostle means other 'sent ones', not just the original twelve.
 3. Last, as though abnormally born, He was seen also by me, for indeed I am being the least apostle, not fit to be called so, because I persecuted The Church of God; but by God's grace I am being what I am being; His grace to me did not happen in vain, but more abundantly than them all I worked hard, yet not I, but rather the grace of God with me. *(Verses 8-10)*
Also Paul: Paul felt abnormally born and not worthy because he persecuted The Church. He is what he is only by God's grace! After warning about vain faith, he says he did not receive grace in vain; but, labored hard for God, not from his strength, but with God.
 4. Therefore, whether I or they, we are preaching, and so you all believed. *(Verse 11)*
Preaching to belief: Paul is one of many always preaching The Gospel in obedient faith.
The faith of the people in churches in Corinth is the result of such preaching.
- B. But some say there is no resurrection with dire consequences of empty faith and being held by sin. *(Verses 12-19)*
1. But, if Messiah is being preached that from the dead He arose, how are they saying, some among you all, that resurrection from the dead NOT is being? *(Verse 12)*
Some say NO resurrection: In the local congregations of believers, some people are totally rejecting the reality of resurrection, as did the Sadducees (Matthew 22:23).
 2. But if resurrection from the dead NOT is being, not Messiah had been raised; but if Messiah not had been raised, then vain is our preaching and vain also the faith of you all. *(Verses 13-14)*
Christ NOT raised: Paul begins to lay out the terrible consequences IF Messiah had not been raised.
Vain preaching and faith: It would be useless (vain) to preach The Gospel, and faith in Messiah's death so our sins could be forgiven is also useless (vain)!
 3. But also we are being found false witnesses of God because we testified concerning God that He raised The Messiah, whom not He raised then, since dead not are being raised. *(Verse 15)*
False witnesses: Again, if there is NO resurrection, all witnesses to Messiah's resurrection are false.
 4. For if, dead not they are being raised, neither Messiah had been raised; and if Messiah not had been raised, useless (is) the faith of you all (and) still you all are being in your sins. *(Verses 16-17)*
Faith useless: And their faith in the Good News of Messiah's resurrection is useless (a stronger word than vain) and their sins are not forgiven by God. This is a fully depressing situation.
 5. Then also the ones having been made to sleep (die) IN Messiah have perished; if in this life IN Messiah (we) had hoped, only, pitiable of all we are being. *(Verses 18-19)*
Bottom line – pitiful: If this life is all there is, then all who dedicate themselves to live for a dead Messiah for a hope of a resurrection that does not exist are pitiful! They have NO hope.

Application: Let us pray and work that the hearts of people who deny the resurrection of Messiah-Jesus will be changed by God because they see the reality of our changed lives showing His love, joy and peace by our good deeds (Matthew 5:16; Titus 2:11-14).

II. The Truth of the resurrection of Messiah and the benefits to believers; and, the mystery of transformation attested to by the written and Living Word of God. *(1 Corinthians 15:20-25, 51-58; Mark 12:26-27a)*

- A. The Truth of Messiah's resurrection and the benefits to believers of their resurrection and the destruction of death. *(1 Corinthians 15:20-25)*
1. Messiah had been raised from dead, first-portion (fruit) of them had fallen asleep (died). *(Verse 20)*

TRUTH: Paul confidently states Messiah has been raised from dead by God, and is still alive – now!

2. For since by (a) man (came) death, also by (a) Man (came) resurrection of dead; for as in Adam all they are dying, in this way also IN The Messiah all will be made alive. (*Verses 21-22*)

Adam and Messiah: Because of Adam's disobedience all people are born spiritually dead (estranged from God) and unable to do anything about it. But The Good News is all who are IN Messiah by the faith of Him, will be made alive by God after their bodies die.

3. But each in his own turn: first-portion (fruit) Messiah; (then) afterwards, those IN Messiah in His coming (again). (*Verse 23*)
Christ first: Messiah has been raised first as part of God's plan. When He comes again, all who are IN Christ, by living in obedient faith to Him, will also be resurrected. We have God's word that ...

Christ's resurrection secures the resurrection of all IN Him

4. Then (will come) the end when He should hand over the Kingdom to God, even The Father; when He should have abolished all rule (of usurpers), and all authority and power (of usurpers); for it is being necessary Him to reign until He should have put all enemies under His feet, enemy last is being destroyed (by Him): death. (*Verses 24-26*)

Second coming: Throughout the Church age there will be conflict and opposition to God's Kingdom IN Messiah. But when Messiah returns He will rule absolutely before turning everything over to His Father. And, death will be destroyed per God's Word through Isaiah (25:6-8).

Christ will finally destroy death

- B. The mystery of the transformation of believers who are IN Messiah: becoming moral and living; all attested to by the written and Living Word of God. (*1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Mark 12:26-27a*)
 1. Behold! Mystery to you all I am saying: all not we will be made to sleep, but all we will be transformed – in (a) moment, in blinking of eye, at the last trumpet; for, it will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we will be surely transformed. (*1 Corinthians 15:51-52*)
Mystery of transformation: When Messiah returns His people will be mysteriously changed by God. People are changed by a consistent diet of God's Word and always being open to The Holy Spirit.
 2. For it is being necessary this corruptible should put on incorruption and this mortal should put on immortality. (*1 Corinthians 15:53-54a*)
Upright and living: All IN Messiah are being made upright by living for Him now. They are becoming more holy as God is Holy (Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:13-16). This will be fulfilled when they see Messiah and become like Him (1 John 3:1-3). All IN Messiah now have life (John 3, 10, 15).
Application: We must all be grateful for the grace of God that is IN The Gospel of Messiah to radically transform us to eventually be like Him.
 3. Then it will come, the saying which had been written: Has been swallowed up: death into victory; where of thee death (is) the victory? where of thee death (is) the sting? (*1 Corinthians 15:54b-55*)
Hosea the prophet: This Scripture was given through the prophet Hosea, who lived near the end of the time Isaiah prophesied. God's written Word says He will destroy the hold death has over people.
 4. The sting of death is sin, but the strength of sin is Torah; but, to God grace (thanksgiving), to The One giving to us victory through our Lord, Savior-Messiah (Jesus Christ). (*1 Corinthians 15:56-57*)
Victory: People are held by death because they cannot follow God's teaching (instruction – Torah) in their own strength. But, all IN Messiah by the faith of Him, may express gratitude to Him in thanksgiving for the victory over death they will receive because Christ has been raised first.

Christ's resurrection secures the resurrection of all IN Him

5. Therefore, brothers beloved of me, steadfast you all must be being (and) un-moveable; abounding in the work of The Lord always; forasmuch (you all) had known, the hard work of you all not is being in vain IN The Lord. (*1 Corinthians 15:58*)
Command: All IN Messiah are being commanded to be steadfast in their works for The Lord, abounding in these works.
Hard work: Paul refers to his earlier statement that he labored more than those more worthy than him, by encouraging them to labor hard for The Lord because the hard work will not be in vain IN Him,
Application: We must always be sure we are IN The Lord and laboring according to His will, because we have His Word that no work of ours is wasted IF it is done IN Him!
6. [Jesus] But about the dead that they are being made to rise, not you all have read in The Book of Moses, at the bush, how God said to him, 'I (am) the God of Abraham and The God of Isaac, and The God of Jacob?' Not He is being God of dead, but of living. (*Mark 12:26-27a*)
Jesus: God's Living Word, Jesus-Savior, affirms resurrection from The Book of Moses – Torah. He says all people who have lived by the faith of God, from the father of faith – Abraham, and on, are still alive! This supports the general truth ...

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Conclusion: The Good News is that Messiah died for our sins and rose to life again, and all who live by faith in what He did are forgiven. But, if He did not rise to life again, everything is vain and useless, and people of faith are pitiful. However, Messiah did rise to life again, which guarantees that all living by faith IN Him will physically come to life again when He comes to earth again to destroy death. Further, they are being transformed now to be upright and immortal. All this is attested by God's written and Living Word.

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