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PRESIDENT'S LETTER - April 09

A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS 15

Fellow Workers, Whose Work in the Lord is Never in Vain:

YOU HAVE NOT BELIEVED IN VAIN

(1) Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, {2} by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you; unless you believed in vain.

THE SIMPLE EASTER GOSPEL

{3} For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, {4} and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

WHAT IF?

(12) Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

{13} But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

{14} And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

{15} Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up; if in fact the dead do not rise.

{16} For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

{17} And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

{18} Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

{19} If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

(20) But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

OUR VICTORY

(50) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. {51} Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; {52} in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. {53} For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. {54} So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." {55} "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" {56} The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. {57} But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

(58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

May you continue to abound in the work of the Lord in your callings realizing in faith that your work and labor is never in vain as long as it is in the Lord. This is possible because of Jesus' victorious resurrection from the dead. Preach this Easter Gospel all your life long.



John Schierenbeck

PS

The CC meets in Eau Claire April 22-23. The various boards meet April 20-21. This work is never in vain unless we lose heart. Even then God will accomplish His saving purposes.