

**April 14, 2021**

## **Our Responsibility**

We have been meditating upon the importance of the resurrection from I Corinthians 15, the resurrection chapter. Our focus has been on verses 12-20. The doctrine of the resurrection is essential to our faith. If there was no resurrection, then is Christ not risen and we are yet under the condemnation of our sin. If Christ is not risen, then the gospel is false, and we have no hope. But Christ is risen and therefore we too shall have a resurrection. That raises another question, what is our responsibility in light of the resurrection? The answer is found in **I Corinthians 15:34, 58**.

Paul begins verse 34 with an imperative, a command to awake! The word translated awake, means to arouse oneself out of a stupor. The command itself infers that one has fallen asleep or at the least is not paying attention. Some might say that rest, and thus sleep, is necessary, and while that may be true physically, spiritually our rest is future. For the believer, the present is a time to work and labor for the Lord. Our future rest is in heaven. As believers we need to wake up and get to work, for the hour is quickly coming when our labor will be over.

What is the work that God has for us to do? People all around us are lost and on their way to a Christless eternity in hell. They are without God and without hope in this world. We have a responsibility to share with them the gospel of Christ that Paul declared in **I Corinthians 15:1-5**. Read **John 4:34-38, Matthew 9:36-38, and Luke 10:2**. We know that Christ came to die for our sins, but how did He spend His time on earth, especially during His earthly ministry? His concern was for people. That they might come to know Him. He labored tirelessly through the day and prayed fervently through the night. He sent forth His disciples to carry on the work and He has extended the commission to us as well, **Matthew 28:18-20**. Shame on us if we fail to carry on the Master's work.

In verse 58 we are always to abound in the work of the Lord. The word abound means to excel or exceed, to increase. We should never be satisfied in the work of the Lord, but always looking to do more to win people to Christ. Jesus spoke of our work in terms of a harvest. Read **Galatians 6:7-9**. It is easy to grow weary in the work of the Lord, but God promises a season of reaping if we faint not in our responsibility to sow the gospel. Back in I Corinthians 15:58, we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. The song writer said, "It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus."

Are there people you know who are lost without Christ? Perhaps an acquaintance, a friend, or a family member. What are you doing to bring them to Christ? When was the last time you shared your faith with them and testified to the work of God in your own life? Have you been steadfast in the work of the Lord or have you grown weary and faint, resting instead of working? Wake up and get to work! **II Corinthians 6:1-2**, "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)" Pray and ask God to give your boldness and courage to witness for Him to those who are lost. Make a conscious effort this week to speak to someone about the Lord or to give someone a gospel tract.