**April 16, 2017 “Resurrection Sunday” I Corinthians 15**

Without a doubt, there are many skeptics within and without the realm of Christendom. A few come to mind that are well known. General Lew Wallace who wrote Ben Hur tells of his near ignorance of the Bible and of his unbelief. Josh McDowell one of the leading scholars of our lifetime wrote a book intending to refute the Bible but ended up becoming one the foremost apologists of our day and wrote a book called “Evidence that Demands a Verdict”. Something similar happened to Lee Strobel who desired to write a book debunking Christianity and after extensive research wrote a book called “The Case for the Resurrection” and another book called, “The Case for Christ”.

Why do I mention all these? It is because many times man with his finite intellect of which he is so proud, cannot explain the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is encapsulated within the Resurrection. Paul in writing to the Corinthian church lays out the Gospel in chapter 15 in a simplistic form with the core of the Gospel, the resurrection of our physical bodies because Christ was raised physically from the dead.

1. The message to believers
   1. Four-fold, I Corinthians15:1-2
      1. Gospel that I preached to you
         1. Romans 10:8b-11
      2. Which you received
         1. Became your life
            1. Not part of your life
            2. But the whole of it
            3. John 6:53-58
      3. In which also you stand
         1. Ephesians 6:10-18
      4. By which you are saved
         1. Unless you believed in vain
            1. James 1:19-25
            2. We cannot play “Christian”
            3. Our actions

James 1:13-15

1. I Corinthians15:3-19
   1. First importance
      1. Jesus died for our sins
         1. There could be no resurrection without a death
         2. There could be no death without sin
            1. The wages of sin is death
         3. But Jesus died for “our sins” (I Corinthians15:3)
            1. According to the Scriptures

Genesis 3:15

Revelation 5

* + - 1. Not His own
         1. How do you know that?
         2. He is the only one to be resurrected… forever
    1. That He was buried
       1. Why?
          1. He was dead
          2. He did not faint, swoon or was simply unconscious
    2. He was raised on the 3rd day and appeared
       1. Two… number of witnesses
       2. On the authority of two or three witnesses (II Corinthians 13:1)
       3. Matthew 28:1
          1. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary
       4. John 20:12
          1. Mary saw two angels
       5. John 20 :4
          1. Peter and John ran to the tomb and saw it empty
       6. Matthew 28:12
          1. Chief priest and elders gave money to the “soldiers… Plural”
       7. I Corinthians 15:4-8
          1. To about 530 various people
          2. If we do not tell about it

We make God Himself out to be a liar (I Corinthians15:15)

1. I Corinthians 15:10-19
   1. 1st century heresy spread by the “gnostics”
      1. Jesus did not die a physical death
      2. Rather He just fainted, then later on revived, walked over to another tomb and fell into it and no one ever found Him
   2. If Christ is not raised
      1. Your faith is worthless (I Corinthians15:17)
         1. Why?
         2. We are still in our sins
            1. No hope of redemption
            2. We will pay for all of eternity the penalty of our sins against a Holy God
2. I Corinthians 15:20-49
   1. But now Christ has been raised from the dead
      1. I Corinthians15:49… “we will also bear the image of the heavenly”
      2. Genesis 1:26-27
3. How will this happen?
   1. I Corinthians 15:50-57
      1. I Corinthians15:50… we will all be changed
         1. In a moment…
   2. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory… through our Lord Jesus Christ   
      (I Corinthians15:57)
4. Here is how we live in the resurrection today
   1. I Corinthians 15:58

Communion: I Corinthians 11:23-34