

AN EASTER REFLECTION

1 Corinthians 15:32

³⁰ Why are we also in danger every hour? ³¹ I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

³² If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.

(1 Corinthians 15:30-32)

Context:

1. Historical Situation

- those in the church at Corinth denied a future, bodily resurrection (15:12)
- by implication they denied the bodily resurrection of Jesus (15:13)

Context:

2. Paul's Response

- reminds the Corinthians what they have both received and believed from him – *the gospel*
- details the devastating consequences if Jesus has not been raised from the dead

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

(1 Corinthians 15:3-6)

¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

(1 Corinthians 15:14-18)

A Foolish Life?

1. Paul's "Foolish" Life

- Paul faced constant dangers, hardships, risks and suffering out sacrificial love for the sake of the gospel
- Paul's life was inexplicable apart from his firm hope in the resurrection

A Foolish Life?

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

– Jim Elliot, martyred at age 28 (1956)

A Foolish Life?

2. A Hopeless Alternative

- if there is no resurrection, let us maximize our comfort, security and pleasure in this life
- if there is no resurrection, there is no ultimate hope or meaning in life

A Foolish Life?

➤ *What about of our lives is only explainable because of the resurrection?*