

# SERMON NOTES

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

## **On Trial for the Resurrection**

*1 Corinthians 15:1-6a; Acts 22:1-16, 30; 23:6-7*

### ***The Apostle Paul was 'accused' of believing in the resurrection!!***

What lies at the heart of this belief on which Paul was willing to stake his life? And why was he willing to be found guilty?

### **1. RESURRECTION: AN EVENT IN THE FUTURE**

*Common Understanding of Resurrection:*

*Some kind of ongoing life beyond the grave*

Present attitudes:

- a. Can't believe it these days, "we're too modern for that"  
Response: The ancient Sadducees didn't believe either!
- b. Downplay it: it leads to Passivity? Marx: 'opiate of the people'?  
Response: i. For Paul/Israel this belief led to action  
(Pharisees), not inaction (Sadducees);  
ii. If there's an Act II, you can take a risk in Act II!

### ***Why was this Conviction so Strong?***

### **2. RESURRECTION: AN EPISODE IN THE PAST:**

*Biblical Understanding of Resurrection:*

*Life in some sort of body beyond the grave*

The bodily resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15)

- a. Not a blending of spirits, but a preserving of individuality/identity
- b. The primary explanation for the transformation of Jesus' followers and therefore for the existence of Christianity

### **3. RESURRECTION: AN EXPERIENCE IN THE PRESENT**

*Biblical Understanding of Resurrection:*

*The present experience of the Risen Christ, here and now!*

Jesus' Continuing his Ministry,

In Relationship with us

By the Presence of his Holy Spirit

To Teach, Heal, Renew

our Lives individually and together in the Church

### **Paul Being Accused of Believing in the Resurrection**

Acts 23:6-7

When Paul noticed that some were Sadducees and others were Pharisees, he called out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. I am on trial concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dissension began between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, or angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge all three.)

### **Paul's Letters to Christians urging them to believe in the Resurrection**

I Corinthians 15:5-8

And he appeared to Simon Peter, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time. He appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time. Most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James and then to all the Apostles and then last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared even to me

Galatians 2:19-20

I have been crucified with Christ;

***it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.***

And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 5:14,15,17

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

***And he died for all, so that those who live might live*** no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

everything old has passed away; see, ***everything has become new!***

Philippians 3:8

8More than that, I regard everything as loss because of ***the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.***

Colossians 3:1-3

***So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is***, seated at the right hand of God. ***Set your minds on things that are above***, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.