



When Christianity Made Sense

1 Corinthians 15:1-11, p. 961

Easter

April 21, 2019

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we learn how Easter and the message of Christianity makes sense of our world and lives.

The Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1) Christianity makes sense of our situation: “Christ died for our sins” (v. 3).

a) *Christianity offers an explanation of our broken world (suffering).*

-Gen 3:17-19: “*cursed is the ground because of you*”

-Rom 8:19-23: “*the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves*”

-Ecclesiastes 1:2: “*Everything is meaningless*”

b) *Christianity offers an explanation of our broken life (sin).*

-Gen 3:7: “*Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked*”

-Rom 3:23-24: “*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*”

-Ecclesiastes 2:1-11: “*whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure ... and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind*”

-Catechism Q/A 16: “*What is Sin? – Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law – resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation.*”

2) Christianity offers us a real solution: “But by the grace of God I am what I am” (v. 10).

a) *Jesus receives our death on the cross (Good Friday).*

-John 3:16-17: ¹⁶ “*For in this was God loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* ¹⁷ *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*”

b) *Jesus restores our life by his Resurrection (Easter).*

Response

At Easter we come to understand why Christianity makes sense – for us!

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Easter)

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- 1) Starter Question: When did Christianity make sense to you?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How do vv. 1-2 express the importance of the fact and doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for our Christian life?
- 4) What does the first phrase in v. 2 mean: “and by which you are being saved,” and why does the Bible regularly speak of our salvation in three different tenses (have been saved, are being saved, will be saved)?
- 5) How is the resurrection of Jesus a doctrine of first importance (v. 3)?
- 6) What does the phrase “in accordance with the Scriptures” (i.e., the OT) intend to teach us in vv. 2-3?
- 7) What is the significance of the appearances of Jesus to many witnesses in vv. 5-8?
- 8) How is Paul’s statement in v. 10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am,” not only true of the apostle Paul but also of every Christian – you and me?
- 9) Since the church is called to “remember” the resurrection (v. 1), how should Christians celebrate Easter so as to teach and remind one another of the meaning and significance of this holiday?
- 10) Concluding summary: What does this text teach us about *faith* (doctrine), *hope* (desire), and/or *love* (duty)?

Further study this week: Matthew 28 on the resurrection according to Matthew (Mon); Mark 16 on the resurrection according to Mark (Tues); Luke 24 on the resurrection according to Luke (Wed); John 20 on the resurrection according to John (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 15 on the importance of the resurrection (Fri).