

# Truth Matters

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1 Corinthians 15:29-34

## Main Idea: Truth Matters

Read Verse 29

### 1.) The practices of some, in Corinth, are inconsistent with their denial of the resurrection (v. 29)

A.) Historical Challenges with verse 29

- i.) The NT is Silent on This Practice
- ii.) No Other Record of This Happening in the Apostolic Era
- iii.) No Parallel Practice of This in Any Other Pagan Religion At This Time

*"This is a genuinely idiosyncratic historical phenomenon."*

–Gordon Fee

B.) Theological Challenges with verse 29

- i.) This practice would contradict justification by grace through faith alone,
- ii.) This practice would seem to involve a magical view of sacramentalism.
- iii.) Paul simply states it and doesn't condemn it.

### 2.) Paul's Life is Absurd if There is No Resurrection. (v. 30-32)

Read Verses 30-32

Read Verse 30

A.) Christian Labor is Marked by Sacrifice and Suffering

- i.) Paul was Not Your Typical Itinerant Preacher

*"And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God...**3** I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, **4** and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom..."*

1 Corinthians 2:1, 3-4

*"**10** We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. **11** To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; **12** and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; **13** when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now."*

1 Corinthians 4:10-13

ii.) Paul was a Weak Vessel Carrying a Foolish Message

*"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing..."*

1 Corinthians 1:18

iii.) Ours is a Theology of the Cross, Not of Glory.

Read Verse 31

B.) The Proof of Paul's Apostleship is the Evidence of Changed Lives

Read Verse 32

C.) A Practical Example of Paul's Danger

"Wild Beast" is to Be Understood Metaphorically

i.) Paul is Still Alive

ii.) This Was a Common Metaphor

iii.) Paul was a Roman Citizen

D.) A Practical Example of the Corinthian Attitude

*"Then you counted the houses of Jerusalem And tore down houses to fortify the wall. 11 And you made a reservoir between the two walls For the waters of the old pool. But you did not depend on Him who made it, Nor did you take into consideration Him who planned it long ago."*

Isaiah 22:10-11

*"Therefore in that day the Lord God of hosts called you to weeping, to wailing, To shaving the head and to wearing sackcloth. Instead, there is gaiety and gladness, Killing of cattle and slaughtering of sheep, Eating of meat and drinking of wine: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we may die."*

Isaiah 22:13

**3.) Repent of Your Wrong Thinking (v. 33)**

Read Verses 33

- A.) Truth Impacts How We Live
- B.) Do Not Be Deceived: An Exhortation and a Warning.
- C.) Bad Company Corrupts Good Morals

**This is Hard to Hear and Even Harder to Apply, Why?**

- 1.) We Live in a Culture That Has Redefined Tolerance
- 2.) We Are Not Always Mature Enough to Separate the Peripheral from the Fundamental.
- 3.) Because There is an Overall Derogatory Attitude Towards Truth
- 4.) Our Conclusion: Two Commands. (v. 34)

Read Verse 34

- A.) Sober Up
- B.) Stop Sinning