

# 1 Corinthians 15.12-19

## True Faith

There is a constant pressure in this culture to silence the church of God. More than that, to enlist us to silence ourselves... It is an insidious pressure that targets our desires and our want for acceptance. The world says to us, believe what you want to believe, but just don't let it affect you or your circle of influence. It bases this pressure on the simple idea that this life is all there is, that a man should be free to live in any way he desires so that he is as happy as possible. That no one has the right to tell him anything about his life or his choices because they are his alone and they die with him; perhaps there is a better existence waiting, perhaps not, but it is no certain thing. It is all a big game and as such they want us to stay out of it... It is a hopeless worldview, denying the God who will call them all to account, and denying the evidence of His existence which is all around them. The pressure to deny truth and conform to the lie finds its root in the denial of Jesus' resurrection. It is the first

sticking point of faith, the first issue of our entry into the family of God. And it is impossible to belong to God while denying the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## I. PEACE

The hope of the next life is the Peace of this one

a. We are all born under the law of sin and death

i. Born Spiritually dead

Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> And you *He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*

ii. Born spiritually helpless

iii. Born spiritually apathetic and opposed to the God who is our only hope

**Romans 3.10-18**

a. NO ONE seeks God

- b. NO ONE is a "good person"
  - c. NO ONE "deserves" heaven
  - d. NO ONE suffers hell here, or has such a bad life or so many problems that they can atone for the basic sin of hating the God who is.
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- b. That curse is written on the walls of our hearts
  - c. Each one found in Christ has that curse removed, nailed to the cross of Christ and taken out of the way forever. We will NEVER be punished for our sin, for our sin has been fully punished in Christ.

### Colossians 2.11-15

- d. The resurrection of Christ is the proof of this hope.
  - i. God raised Jesus BECAUSE of our justification –

Romans 4:23–25 <sup>23</sup> Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, <sup>24</sup> but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

- ii. The resurrection of Jesus is the key element of faith, without it you can neither be saved nor forgiven. God not only attaches the value of payment made to this fact but faith in this fact is the beginning of life...

### Romans 10.9-13

- e. The peace of God is given to us through Christ who lives always to make intercession for us...

Philippians 4:6–7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all

understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 7:23–25

Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

## **II. DEFINING CHARACTER**

The hope of the next life is the defining character of this one

a. Many say that Christians should keep their religion out of public life.

- i. Makes our faith a lie
- ii. Makes our faith without any real power or purpose

- iii. We are shaped by this life to be conformed to Christ, to be fit for His presence for all of eternity.
  
- b. It is not surprising when unbelievers attest to the aim of silencing active faith
  
- c. It is appalling when those who name the name of Christ are willing participants in that deception
  - i. Refusing to speak the truth
  - ii. Believing the lies and opinions of world.
    - 1. Abortion
    - 2. Sexuality and gender
    - 3. Marriage covenants
    - 4. General morality
  
- iii. A man who does not live out what he says he believes is a liar.
  - 1. In his speech -

James 1.26-27

a. Foul language -

Ephesians 5.3-7

b. Hateful language -

James 3.8-12

1John 4.20-5.1

c. Gossip and Slander

Proverbs 26.20-26

2. In his relationships...

Leviticus 19.17-18

3. In his sanctification...

1John 3.1-3

4. In his salvation...

John 14:21 (NKJV) <sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

1 John 3:24 (NKJV) <sup>24</sup> Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

### **III. JOY**

The hope of the next life is the joy of this one

Hebrews 12.1-2

Psalms 16.9-11

John 14.1-4

### **IV. POWER**

The hope of the next life is the power of this one



a. The resurrection IS the final declaration of God about His power.

Romans 1.2-4

b. That same power is promised to us when we are raised in His likeness

Philippians 3.12-4.1

c. We will finally be completely conformed to His image and likeness when we are raised...

1Corinthians 15.42-49

d. This forward looking intention gives us the power of His resurrection to strengthen and enable us in this life. His resurrection IS the center of our faith... and if Christ is not raised, then everything else is worthless.