

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of April, 2018

Sunday, April 1, 2018

The Resurrection of Christ and our Great Salvation

(1 Corinthians 15:14-18)

Were it not for the fact that Jesus Christ conquered death and the grave, we would not be celebrating today. Christianity is the faith that claims a living founder. His disciples come together regularly for Bible study, prayer and worship in order to experience His living presence in their midst.

Christianity is not just good advice. Christianity is good news from a cemetery. It is good news about God. It is good news to sinners everywhere. To miss this point is to miss the real heart of what we call the gospel.

- A. If Jesus be not raised, the church has no message for a lost and needy world (1 Corinthians 15:14).
- B. If Jesus Christ be not raised, the Christian has nothing to believe (15:14).
- C. If Jesus Christ be not raised, the Apostles and all preachers since then have been lying about God by misrepresenting Him as having raised Jesus Christ (15:15).
- D. If Jesus Christ be not raised, your faith is empty, lifeless and worthless.
- E. If Jesus Christ be not raised, you are still in the guilt and under the condemnation that comes as a result of sin (15:17).

Jesus died for our sins and was raised again in order that we might have a position of acceptance in the presence of the Holy God.

- F. If Jesus Christ be not raised, those believers who died with faith in Jesus Christ are perished (1 Corinthians 15:18). They are gone forever and we are but whistling in the dark....if Jesus Christ be not raised.
- G. If Jesus Christ be not raised, we are indeed sad creatures because we have been living and building our lives upon an illusion.

Thank God for the fact that the world's blackest assumption is a falsehood, for in fact, Jesus Christ is now gloriously and wonderfully risen from the dead.

Jesus Christ is alive!

Spiritual Growth

(1 Peter 2:1-3 KJV)

Sundays, April 8 and 15, 2018

The Apostle Peter did not labor under the erroneous idea that the new birth immediately produces a mature Christian. As in the realm of the physical, so it is in the spiritual: a birth produces an infant.

The Apostle challenges us to respond fully to the potential that is ours because of our spiritual birth into the family of God: *“you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God”* (1 Peter 1:23 NIV).

Peter urges his readers to beware of the peril of assuming that the spiritual birth experience will automatically assure spiritual maturity. He stresses the importance of a positive response to the call of God to become spiritually mature and competent as disciples of Christ.

1. “Laying aside” (1 Peter 2:1)

The words of 1 Peter 2:1 can come as a real shock to the person who labors under the false assumption that the new birth alone is the ultimate in God’s plan for His disciples.

Peter declares that those who have been called into the family of God must lay aside the wicked ways of the heathen world in which they have lived and in which they continue to travel as if it were a contaminated garment infected with a fatal disease. Ungodliness is to be stripped off. The Christian is to turn from all evil – two faced trickeries, false pretense, envying and unkind words about others. These are but illustrations of the things that must be laid aside if believers will truly be God’s people in the world.

Sunday, April 22, 2018

2. “As newborn babes” (1 Peter 2:2)

Peter did not assume that those to whom he addressed his letter already were spiritually mature. He was realistic in recognizing that if they would become the servants of God, they must be involved in a continuing process of spiritual growth. He emphasizes the supreme importance of a sustained spiritual diet involving the “spiritual milk” of the word - *“they could nourish the growth of the life that God had imparted to them in the new birth.”*

Sunday, April 29, 2018

3. "If so be ye have tasted" (1 Peter 2:3)

There is no way for the new convert to grow if he neglects or refuses to feed his soul on the milk and meat of the Word of God. The new birth is made possible by the preaching of the Word of God. It is by obeying the Word that believers purify their lives. These things are possible because the Word of God has the life of God in it. You must taste it and see for yourself.

Spiritual growth makes fullness of joy as well as effective service, possible. Spiritual growth points toward victory and a quality of life that is pleasing to the Heavenly Father. It is the will of our Father that each of His children be in a process of continuing spiritual growth.

When we cease to grow, we begin to die!