

Introduction:

1. “Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals.” Do you know why Paul said this?
2. This statement is a warning for us. Understanding who the bad company is also critical.

The Lesson:

**I. The Context of 1 Corinthians 15:1-32**

- A. Paul preached the gospel to the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 15:1-2.
  1. The gospel can be preached, received, believed, and stood in.
  2. It can save if one believes and continues in it.
- B. Paul delivered to them what was of most importance, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.
  1. Jesus died on the cross according to the scriptures (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53). His body was buried in a tomb (John 19:38-41).
  2. Jesus was risen from the grave on the third day. Many saw Him alive (verses 5-8).
- C. Paul expressed his humility being an apostle, 1 Corinthians 15:9-11.
  1. Paul recognized God’s grace which saved him.
  2. He labored and was zealous because of God’s grace. *Should we not be the same way?*
- D. Paul addresses the false doctrine some believed, 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.
  1. Some believed there is no resurrection from the dead!
  2. Verse 13: If true there was no resurrection of the dead, then it also means Christ was not raised. One cannot believe people will not rise from the dead, but Jesus did. *Jesus was raised from the grave, which means we will be raised as well.*
  3. Verses 14-19: Paul details the unavoidable conclusion if there is not resurrection. Christ’s death was like every other death. We have no HOPE! Our lives are pathetic. *The faith crumples if there is no resurrection because it means Christ has not been raised.*
- E. Paul reminds the Corinthians about reality! Jesus is risen, 1 Corinthians 15:20.
  1. This is critical to understand. This is reality! Jesus is risen. It has ramifications for us.
    - a. He is the first fruits of those who are sleep.
    - b. *His death was no regular death. It was to conquer death and to free us from sin.*
  2. *Because of His resurrection, we know there’s a harvest to come when we will be raised!*
  3. Verse 21-22: Through Adam came death, but through Christ comes resurrection and life.
  4. Verse 23: Because Christ has been risen, we will too!
  5. Verse 24: When Jesus returns, the dead will rise (John 5:28-29). Christ will hand the kingdom (it’s already in existence) over to the Father.
  6. Verse 25-26: When that day comes all enemies will have been defeated, the last one being death. How? Because all the tombs will be emptied!

7. Verse 27-28: A quote from Psalm 8:6. All things will be subjected to the Father.
- F. Verses 29-32: The ramifications if Christ is not risen.
  1. Verse 29: Some questions would naturally arise from Paul's argument.
  2. Verses 30-32: Why did Paul risk his life if there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection from the dead, then eat and drink and then die (Isaiah 22). There's no HOPE!

**II. "Do not be deceived: Bad Company Corrupts Good Morals."**

- A. Does verse 33 have more a weight to it now that you've seen the context?
  1. Who is the BAD COMPANY? Those who don't believe in the resurrection of the dead.
    - a. Some of the Corinthians had somehow believed this view. They believed Jesus was risen, but that there would be no physical resurrection.
    - b. The Sadducees had this view, Acts 23:8.
    - c. Certainly, the Gentiles didn't believe in the resurrection.
  2. Those with this belief are BAD COMPANY because they could and did influence some of the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 15:34.
  3. When one has the worldview that there is no resurrection, they often will have the mindset of EAT, DRINK, for Tomorrow we DIE! Rightfully so. Because they have no hope.
  4. But we have hope! They can to if they examine the evidence and belief in the resurrection.
- B. Think about the ramifications of this for us!
  1. Atheists and Agnostics don't believe in the resurrection of the dead. How sad. Many of the most influential people of the world (Authors, Actors, Podcasters, Professors, Social Influencers) don't! Paul says, they are BAD COMPANY!
  2. Don't marry BAD COMPANY! Don't date BAD COMPANY! Don't be swayed by BAD COMPANY! Don't fill your mind with wisdom from BAD COMPANY!
  3. Look at how the world rages with the reversal of Roe vs. Wade. Their worldview is this is all we have. There is no resurrection. Eat, Drink, for Tomorrow we die.

**Conclusion**

1. A person's worldview matters! Jesus came into the world to change it forever. He came to give mankind hope. We have Hope in Him because He is the first fruits of the resurrection.
2. One day all of tombs will be opened! Therefore, be steadfast, 1 Corinthians 15:58.