

## **BECAUSE THE GRAVE IS EMPTY (1 Corinthians 15:58)**

### **I. Be steadfast in your aim.**

- A. The word “steadfast” means: “fixed in direction, unwavering.”
- B. In view of the fact that the grave is empty, Christians should be fixed in the direction of heaven.
  - 1. There are many things in this life which can obstruct our view if we allow them to do so.
  - 2. The resurrection gives us great motivation to be fixed in our direction toward heaven.
- C. When Jesus rose from the dead and caused the grave to be empty, all doubt was removed about what God was making possible for mankind.
  - 1. God proved to the world there was going to be a judgment by the resurrection (Acts 17:30-31).
  - 2. By giving Jesus and raising Him from the dead, God was making possible life with Him in heaven.
  - 3. The resurrection proved that beyond a shadow of a doubt.
  - 4. Why else would God cause His Son to go through the agony of the cross unless there was to be a heaven to gain for us?
- D. Jesus is a model for being steadfast in aim (Luke 9:51).
  - 1. He knew that it was time for the event for which He had come to earth to commence.
  - 2. There was nothing that would cause Jesus to turn aside from His aim of dying on the cross for me and you.
- E. Paul was a model for steadfastness in aim (Philippians 3:13-14).
  - 1. A lot of things could have gotten in the way of Paul’s aim.
  - 2. No mere human has gone through what Paul endured for the cause of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:23ff; Galatians 6:17).
  - 3. There might be no one who has given up as much as Paul did in order to have heaven as his aim.
- F. Because the grave is empty, we should be fixed in our aim of getting to heaven because now there is no doubt that heaven is open to us.

### **II. Be unmovable in doctrine.**

- A. The word “unmovable” means “not able or intended to be moved.”
- B. This ought to be the feeling and stance of everyone who believes in the empty grave.
  - 1. We should have no intention or ability to be moved away from Christ and His word.
  - 2. Knowing what we do about the resurrection and the judgment that is definitely coming because of the resurrection, we should be unmovable in our belief in and commitment to Jesus and His doctrine.
- C. Long ago the Psalmist had this type sentiment (Psalm 16:8; 62:6).
- D. Notice what Paul said happens for those who stay grounded in the gospel (Colossians 1:21-23).

- E. The idea is that we are to be unmovable despite the circumstances that are being faced.
  - 1. When death is threatened we must be unmovable (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
  - 2. When difficult times are upon us we must be unmovable.
- F. There are those that are moved because they are not grounded in the faith (Ephesians 4:14).
  - 1. This happens today when some are faced with the difficulty of telling a family member or friend they are lost.
  - 2. Instead of being unmovable in doctrine, they will compromise in order to feel better or keep a friend or family member happy.
- G. When we are moved from the gospel we are moved from salvation (Galatians 5:4).
  - 1. Those people had gone to another law for salvation.
  - 2. Being moved from the gospel caused them to be moved from grace.
- H. We need to remember Paul's opening statement to the Galatian Christians (1:6-9).
- I. Because the grave is empty, we should have no intention or ability to be moved from the doctrine of Christ.

### III. **Be always abounding in the work of the Lord.**

- A. The word "abounding" means "to be rich or well supplied in or with something."
- B. We should be rich in or well supplied in good works because the grave is empty.
  - 1. Paul is urging them and us to be well supplied in the work of the Lord.
  - 2. Always working, not just occasionally or sometimes.
- C. The resurrection gives us the promise of life after this.
- D. For that reason, we ought to be working for the One who gave us this promise.
- E. The resurrection gives meaning to this life.
- F. For that reason we ought to be working for the One who gave the opportunity for meaning in life.
- G. Jesus commanded that we "take up the cross daily" (Luke 9:23).
  - 1. We are to be rich in good works daily.
  - 2. We are to abound in good works daily.
- H. When we fail to attend as we should, both bible class and worship, or when we fail to do good as we have opportunity, we fail to be rich in the works of the Lord.
- I. The works that we are to do are those things that are pleasing to God.
- J. Because the grave is empty, we should be rich in works to bring honor and glory to the One who came out of that grave and the One who brought Him out of the grave.

From a sermon outline by Mark Posey