

# S.O.H.L. (4/5/10)

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

# The Resurrection Of The Dead

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-23** NLT – (12) But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? (13) For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. (14) And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. (15) And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. (16) And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. (17) And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. (18) In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! (19) And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. (20) But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. (21) So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. (22) Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. (23) But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

The Easter story of the death on the cross of Jesus Christ and His resurrection on the third day is known throughout the world. Why is the power of the resurrection of Jesus so important? If the resurrection had not occurred, the apostle Paul tells us what our present condition would be in **1 Corinthians 15:13-19**, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and...your faith is futile. ...All Christians who have died are lost." The power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very essence of our Christian faith and the cornerstone of our belief in a glorified life to come.

Christ after His resurrection appeared to many, but perhaps the most powerful historical proof came by the life changes and sacrifices of the Apostles and Christians in the thousands who gave their lives through the ages based on belief in the resurrection of a risen Savior from the dead.

Many people have died for a lie, but they thought it was the truth. If the resurrection did not actually occur, the eleven Apostles subsequently died horrible deaths by crucifixion, arrows, spears, stoning and the sword for a lie. No faith based on a lie would have created so unshakable a commitment by so many to recognize the importance of not only accepting Jesus as the risen Savior, but the mission to tell the world the message of salvation, regardless of consequences.

Frankly speaking, the turmoil and lack of faith in some of our human leaders today, and their selfish actions in seeking power only further confirms, we must personally and as a nation decide to live life, and make decisions as Christ instructed us in His Word. Faith is knowing that only through the resurrected Spirit of Christ - **not man** - can we obtain the inner peace, security, and happiness sought by us all as individuals, families, and a nation. Let us take comfort that He has risen from the dead.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

ACTS 2:29-41

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

True freedom is found in an empty tomb.

