

The Effects of what we believe

Resurrection Lives

We live resurrection lives.

- The impact of what we believe then means that everything that we are, say and do are changed by Jesus' resurrection.
- Our lives should now have markers of resurrection existence in them
- This does not mean irritating cheerfulness

Confidence in the Gospel

One of the themes to which Paul returns again and again is the fact that as a result of everything in which we believe we have confidence in the Gospel

- We have hope so we act with great boldness (2 Corinthians 3.12)
- We do not allow ourselves to be hoodwinked by other views (Colossians 2.7-8) – since we are rooted in Christ

Unity in Christ

Probably the most significant piece of theology for Paul, however, is that the resurrection bring unity

- through being the Body of Christ on earth
- the reconciliation of new creation

Conclusions

What is Paul saying to Wakefield?

- Live the resurrection with all your might...

What is St Paul saying to Wakefield?

Introduction – Preliminary Issues

Pauline letters and Biblical Interpretation

On one level the answer to this is Paul is saying nothing at all to Wakefield.

Biblical Interpretation and our reading of the Bible

- Historical critical interpretation and its significance
- Like listening to one half of a telephone conversation and acting on it – much of Historical critical study is concerned to reconstruct what was going on in the conversation

But the limits of historical critical interpretation are that it doesn't recognise the dynamic, living breathing word of God in the text and its significance for our lives in Christ.

Paul's Letters and their audiences

Paul wrote two main types of letters

- those to a specific audience whose concerns he knew well
- those to a general audience whose concerns he did not know in which he laid out principles of Theology

Pauline Theology

Impossible to do justice to Paul's theology in 45 mins so focussing question to one specific area

- fits seasonally
- less explored than, perhaps, some other aspects of Paul.

The Jesus in whom we believe – risen and ascended

Understanding Pauline Theology

- not just ideas but ideas that lead to practical outcomes for who we are and how we should act
- Pauline ethics is laid down on the foundations of what he believe about Jesus, who he was and what he did.

Understanding resurrection

The significance of the resurrection to a 1st century Jewish audience

- variety of views about life after death among Jews and among Gentiles
- within Judaism resurrection had a very specific reference to the end of the world and the fate of humanity
- Jesus' resurrection must be understood in the context of its Jewish background – and what this meant about the end of the world

Understanding ascension

For us a much harder idea to get our heads around – but for Paul an equally essential concept

- based on a cosmological view we no longer hold – though the problem is not insurmountable
- Seated at the right hand of God (particularly in the light of Revelation) involved sitting on God's throne itself and tells us a lot about Jesus

The Implications of what we believe

About God

In Paul, resurrection becomes a divine characteristic - this is very important for what we believe about God

- able
- and willing

to raise Jesus from the dead

About Ourselves

If Jesus rose from the dead...then so will we.

Paul understood Jesus' resurrection to be a proof that we will also rise from the dead

- Significance of 1 Corinthians 15 in the light of this

though often this proves more rather than less problematic for many people

About our Identity

Jesus resurrection opened up a whole new way of being

- a way marked not by being in 'Adam' but in 'Christ'
- corporate personality and what this means in the context of Paul
- if anyone is in Christ new creation occurs.