

save from sin. (See Acts 3: 15; 4: 33; 17: 31; Rom. 1: 4.) *No resurrection. Christ not risen.* If it is true that the bodies of believers do not rise from the dead, then the body of Christ did not rise. All must stand or fall together. *Christ..not risen.. preaching vain.. faith.. vain.* The only Saviour able to save, is a risen, living Saviour.

Vs. 15-19. *False witnesses of God.* The apostles were witnesses of the resurrection, and, in fact, no one could be qualified to become an apostle, unless he had actually seen the risen Saviour, ch. 9: 1. *Faith..vain.. yet in your sins.* If there is no resurrection, there is no Christ, no redemption, no forgiveness, no salvation. *Perished.* Those who had "fallen asleep" had, in their death, hope of resurrection and eternal life. But if this new teaching be true, they were deceived, and have disappeared into nothingness. *Of all men most miserable.* This does not mean that believers in the resurrection will fare worse than others, if their belief turns out to be false; but it describes their bitter disappointment, should their hopes prove to have no foundation. There is nothing so humiliating as to be victims of a lifelong delusion.

II. Truth, 20, 21, 55-57.

Vs. 20, 21. *Christ risen.* No fact in his-

tory is more certain. *Firstfruits;* the first sheaf of a great harvest made up of all believers. When the firstfruits appear, we know the harvest will follow. *By man.. death, by man..also..resurrection.* Death was introduced among the human race by Adam, and the resurrection by Jesus Christ.

Vs. 55-57. *Sting..victory.* The victory over death of Jesus Christ carries with it the victory of every one who believes in Him. The Christian can face the king of terrors without trembling. *Sin..law.* It is sin and the consequences of sin now, and beyond the grave, that give death its dreadful character. And sin makes afraid because of the penalties which the law denounces against the sinner. *Victory through..Christ.* The gospel delivers us from sin, and from the fear of its consequences. It also assures of eternal life through the resurrection of Christ, and so gives us the victory over death.

III. Duty, 58.

V. 58. *Stedfast, unmoveable.* The hope of a blessed resurrection and of eternal life is one of the great practical motives to a life of steadfastness in duty, and of willing self-sacrifice for righteousness' sake. No such life will prove to be in vain, but must have its abundant reward.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

Lesson Subject—The resurrection of Christ.

Introduction—Have some flowers in your hand (Easter lilies, if possible), as you greet your class on this Easter morning. Why do we always think of flowers when we think of Easter? Of what do the spring flowers remind us? Repeat—

"Do you know the blessed story

Which the Easter morning brings?

Hope of heavenly peace and glory

Borne upon its shining wings.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen!

Earth and heaven join to say;

Light now shines on death's dark prison

And the stone is rolled away—

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

On this glorious Easter day."

An Easter Message—You may not all have received Easter cards, but I know of a letter with a wonderful Easter message that is sent for each of you. The one who sends the

message is Paul. God told him what to say. We will hear the message now. (Unfold a letter from an envelope, and read our Golden Text.) This is part of a letter he sent to the Christians at Corinth.

Some false teachers had been laughing at the Christians for believing that after people died their bodies would rise again some time. Paul writes this letter to the Christians to tell them to "keep on" believing that, for it is true. Jesus rose from the dead and was seen by many people, and because He rose, His people will rise also; just as when we see the first fruits of the trees, or the first sheaf of grain, we know that others will follow. Death is like a sleep. We shall awaken into another life. Paul tells the Christians at Corinth to be patient and faithful, and God will surely reward their loving service. This letter is meant for all Christians. It is God's Easter message to each of us.