

Searching The Scriptures I Corinthians 15:1-4

When the Apostle Paul opened his topic in the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians, he set forth the Gospel by which his readers were saved if they held it **fast!** Paul then wrote, concerning the Gospel he preached, "That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." (I Corinthians 15:1-4.)

Since the New Testament was not yet even close to being completed, to what Scriptures was Paul referring? How can these Scriptures strengthen our understanding and our reliance in God's word?

I. To What Scriptures Was Paul Referring In Our Text?

- A. Our Lord Jesus read from and applied Isaiah 61:1, 2 in the synagogue in Nazareth! (Luke 4:16-21.) The Apostles referred to Psalms 2:1, 2 to identify what the Jews had done to carry out God's purpose in Jerusalem. (Acts 4:24-28.) These are both Old Testament passages which the people of Berea used to confirm the accuracy of Paul's preaching. (Acts 17:11.)
- B. Is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus seen in prophecy in the Old Testament? The death of Jesus is seen in Daniel 9:26 and specific details regarding His being crucified are seen in Psalms 22:14-18.
- C. The burial of Jesus is seen in Isaiah 53:9.
- D. The resurrection of Jesus is seen in Psalms 16:10.

II. How Can These Scriptures Strengthen Our Understanding And Reliance In The Word Of God?

- A. Once we can see these Scriptures correctly applied to Jesus in the New Testament, we can confirm promise, prophecy and fulfillment! (II Peter 1:2-4.)
- B. For example, God put an end to the agony of death for Jesus by raising Him up! (Acts 2:24-32.)
- C. Once Jesus accomplished His purpose upon the cross, He died! (John 19:28-30.)
- D. During the time that His body lay in the tomb, Jesus went to Paradise and He announced His triumph over death! (Luke 23:43; I Peter 3:18, 19.)