

The Apostle Paul - Born Out of Due Time – Part 1

1 Corinthians 15:8-11

Introduction:

1. The subject in this chapter is the resurrection of Christ and believers.
2. There were people in the church at Corinth who were questioning the validity of a physical resurrection of the dead. vs. 12
3. Paul begins this chapter by reminding them of the gospel that he had preached and they had believed. Christ died for our sins and rose again the third day. vs. 3-4
4. Paul also details the eyewitnesses that saw Christ after His resurrection. vs. 5-7
5. In verse 8 Paul says, "*And last of all he was seen of me also...*"
6. Christ appeared to Paul, saved Paul, and gave to him a special message and apostleship to the church, the body of Christ. **Romans 11:13; 1 Timothy 1:1, 11-12, 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11**
7. Paul teaches us several incredible truths regarding his apostleship here in our text. It is vital that every member of the body of Christ understand these truths.

First, Paul was an apostle born out of due time. vs. 8

1. Paul experienced a spiritual rebirth on the road to Damascus. The Holy Spirit entered into him and he was regenerated. This is true of every believer today.
Titus 3:4-5
 - Regeneration is your dead spirit being given the life of God - being born of God's life. **Ephesians 2:1** - it uses the word "*quicken*ed."
2. But what did Jesus instruct **the twelve** concerning regeneration?
Matthew 19:27-28
 - He told them that the regeneration would be when Christ would return to earth and rule and reign on the throne of His glory. **Matthew 25:31**
 - When Christ's kingdom is established at His Second Coming, He calls it "*the regeneration*."
3. Did you know that at Christ's Second Coming there will be a rebirth of the nation of Israel that will take place? God breathes life once again into this nation that He had pronounced dead (**Hosea 13:1, 9**). **Ezekiel 37:1-14; Isaiah 26:16-19; Hosea 6:2-3**
 - A nation will be reborn with spiritual life. They will be regenerated.
Isaiah 66:8-9
4. In the time of the regeneration (when Israel is born again), God will fully execute all the provisions of the new covenant. **Ezekiel 36:24-30; cf. Hebrews 8:7-13**
 - Israel will be gathered from all nations into their own land.
 - God will completely cleanse them from all sin.
 - God will put His Spirit within them and cause them to walk in His statutes.
 - They will dwell in their land with physical fruitfulness.
5. This is not the regeneration program that you and I are part of, but it is for the nation of Israel, and God will keep His promises to them. The time of regeneration **will** come.
6. The "*due time*" regeneration program called for God's wrath to be poured out on all his enemies, and then the return of Christ to deliver, save, and regenerate Israel.

7. Paul was the chief enemy of Christ, yet when Christ appears, Christ doesn't destroy Paul, but rather saves Him by grace. Acts 9
8. When Christ appeared on that Damascus road, it was not for the purpose of bringing in the kingdom program, but rather Christ suspending the kingdom program and revealing to Paul the mystery of the body of Christ. **Colossians 1:24-27**
 - Christ revealed to Paul a new program that He had hidden in Himself from the foundation of the world.
 - This new program was not dealing with Israel's rebirth, but rather the rebirth of individuals (Jews and Gentiles), and the forming of a new agency, the body of Christ.
9. This wasn't what was due up next. Prophecy called for the wrath of God against His enemies and then the regeneration of the nation of Israel.
10. This is why Paul says that he was born out of due time. He was regenerated, but not through a national rebirth of Israel, but rather through the individual intervention and grace of Jesus Christ.
11. Paul was a pattern to all those who would believe on Christ after Him (**1 Timothy 1:16**). All of us are enemies of God who deserved wrath and judgment, but received grace and life apart from and before the due time regeneration program of Israel. Thank God for His grace.