

‘RAISE THE DEAD’
(Resurrection Day Series Supplement)
Studies in 1 Corinthians 15

‘The Bucket List’

Nobody is exactly sure of the origin of the term *bucket list*, but most do understand it to mean a list of things somebody wants to accomplish or experience before they die. The most likely idea is that it morbidly refers to a suicide when someone stood on a bucket with a rope around their neck and then *kicks the bucket* away to die. Although that idea doesn't really match the modern connotation of a person nearing the end of life and filling their final days with good experiences and positive things they have always wanted to do, a *bucket list* isn't a such bad idea. Especially if it's filled up with spiritual aspirations and eternal purposes.

The Spirit-filled Christian's *bucket list* ought to be filled with much different things than a non-believer who is running out of time and isn't headed for heaven. The contents of our *bucket list* will be greatly affected by the truth, that although we may die, we are not approaching the end of existence. Actually, we are simply making a transition from this life to heaven immediately at death and the kingdom of God eventually when Christ returns. We'll have everlasting life forever, but our eternal future is greatly affected by what we did for the Lord with this life He gave us.

A Christian *bucket list* can contain seeing people you need to see, going places you want to be, and doing things you want to experience, of course, but believers need to leave room for things of the Lord also. If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord and haven't yet been baptized, that should be *in your bucket*. Have you established the basics of being a born-again Christian like daily Bible study and prayer, faithful attendance, and membership in a good church family like CBF?

These should be priority *bucket list* contents that will help with all the other things it contains. How about reconciling with a brother or sister in Christ that you had a falling out with, or witnessing to a family member or friend you've never gotten around to telling about Christ and their need of Him? There really should be room to use your abilities and spiritual gifts for something more than SMOR (*Sunday Morning Only Religion*) Christianity – volunteering for one or two regular ministries in a good Bible-teaching church will not only fill the *bucket*, but make it more fulfilling, too.

Have you gotten around to biblical tithing of your finances back to the Lord? If not, God can't bless filling the *bucket* with what biblically belongs to Him. How about promises you have made to God, your church, or others that you have not made it a point to follow through and keep – plugging those holes of dishonesty by just doing it will put God's blessings for obedience in the bucket, too. Many scriptures can be cited for all these ***biblical bucket list*** items, but you get the picture – don't let service for God and spiritual activities be just ***a drop in the bucket*** at the end of life. The Lord promises that if you make **Matthew 6:33** a lifestyle philosophy before *kicking the bucket*, He will bless you with lots of other stuff on the list as a bonus. Make sure the motto on your *bucket list* reads: ***“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”*** If you do ***“...all the other things will be added unto you”***.
PtL

‘The Christian’s *Bucket List*’

(Since death is not the end, how should we live here and now?)

1 Corinthians 15:58

Be Faithful

“Be steadfast, immovable ...”

1 Corinthians 15:58a

What are you doing now with the *time, talent and treasure* God has given to you in advancing God’s gospel, kingdom, church and glory in this life?

(Luke 14:15-27)

Be Fruitful

“Always abounding in the work of the Lord...”

1 Corinthians 15:58b

What regular ministries can you commit yourself to with the rest of your life? How can you use your abilities and spiritual gifts to serve God and His people?

(Matthew 20:1-16)

Be Functional

“Your labor is not in vain in the Lord”

1 Corinthians 15:58c

Why is it so important for wise Christians to evaluate everything they commit to praying and asking God - ‘Of what eternal value is this, really?’

(Matthew 25:14-30)