

Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

1 Corinthians

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The resurrection (Chapter 15)

- The resurrection is the next subject that the Corinthian church asked Paul to address (see 7:1). Some false teachers had claimed that the human soul was resurrected when a person became a Christian, but denied a literal resurrection (2 Tim 2:18). Also, most Greeks (Corinth is a Greek city) mocked the idea of resurrection (Acts 17:16-32 especially v.32)
- 15:1-7...the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - V.1-2...Paul reminds the Corinthian believers of the gospel he preached to them and that they still believed
 - V.3-4...the gospel is: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - 'Gospel' means "*good news*" and is used in the Gospels to describe the kingdom of God brought by Jesus Christ. The term later came to mean the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
 - Paul received this revelation from the Holy Spirit and the knowledge from apostles and passed it on to the Corinthians...note this is the **FIRST** importance
 - Each part of the gospel is important: death, burial, and resurrection
 - "According to the scriptures", Isaiah 53
 - V.5-7...Jesus appears to many after His resurrection (proof)
 - To Peter, the two on the road to Emmaus, to the disciples (Luke 24:13-34)
 - To 500 disciples...there is no exact account of this but perhaps Matt 28:16 is what Paul is referencing
 - To Paul himself (Acts 9:4)...note Paul indicates that his spiritual vision (hearing) is equal to the literal sight that others had
 - The proof of the resurrection is that so many people were eyewitnesses, and most of them died as martyrs rather than deny Christ's resurrection
 - There are 10 occurrences where Jesus Christ appeared to eyewitnesses following his resurrection
 - Many of the eyewitnesses Paul lists were still alive (the letter to the Corinthians is 25-30 years after the resurrection)
- V.9-11...Paul's standing as an Apostle
 - "least of the apostles" because he persecuted the church (Acts 7:54-8:3)
 - Paul had been a Christian for 20+ years, and still was cognizant of his past sins. But, the grace of God drove him to work harder in the kingdom of God.
 - V.11...the goal of preaching is to have hearers believe
- V.12-19...the key issue: "*how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead*"
 - V.12...How can you believe Jesus was resurrected and still NOT believe in the resurrection of the dead??
 - The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the basis of our faith
- V.12-19...the key issue: "*how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead*"
 - V.13...If a person does not believe in the resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ was resurrected!

- V.14...If Christ was not resurrected, then everything Christians believe and practice is useless!
- V.15...if we don't believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, then we are acting as false witnesses by claiming God did something that we don't believe he truly did
- V.16...Paul repeats v.13
- V.17...similar to v.14, but stronger words.
 - V.14...'vain' in Greek is *ken-os*' meaning 'empty'
 - V.17...'vain' in Greek is *mat'-ah-yos* meaning devoid of truth
 - The atoning death of Christ is validated by His resurrection
- V.12-19...the key issue: "*how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead*"
 - V.18...if there is no resurrection, then all believers have 'perished'
 - V.19...false belief leads to wasted, miserable lives
- V.20-28...**BUT NOW CHRIST IS RISEN...!!**
 - V.20
 - There is much proof, including Paul's testimony (Acts 1:1-3)
 - And others will be resurrected because of Him
 - First-fruits (see next 2 slides)

Barley sheaf



- V.20-28...**BUT NOW CHRIST IS RISEN...!!**
 - V.20....First-fruits...(Leviticus 23:9-12)
 - On the morning after the Sabbath Passover a sheaf of barley was waved before the LORD as a pledge for the upcoming harvest. Barley was used because it was the first grain to ripen...this is the 'First Fruits'
 - The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a 'first-fruit' offering that occurred on the first Sabbath following Passover (his crucifixion)
 - The resurrection of Jesus was the first-fruit pledge of a large future harvest...see Matthew 27:45-54
 - V.21...Adam contrasted by Jesus. The hope of the resurrection from the dead rests in Jesus

- V.20-28...BUT NOW CHRIST IS RISEN...!!
 - V.22...all men die because of Adam, but “all” men (see v.23) will be made alive (restored)
 - V.23-28...the order of resurrection
 - Christ (the first-fruit)
 - Believers at the Second Coming
 - The Judgment of the Wicked (enemies, destruction of the devil’s rule)...John 5:28,29, Rev. 20:12-14
 - “Then comes the end”...see v.24 and v.28
 - Jesus Christ will have completed His work and will return the kingdom to God his Father...v.28. See prophetic scriptures in Psalms 8:6 and 110:1. Matthew 22:44...Christ is both the son of David and the Son of God