

Topic: ARE THE DEAD RAISED? (1 COR. 15:1-10)

1 Corinthians 15:1 - 10 (NLT) ¹Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it.

²It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.

³I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.

⁴He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

⁵He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.

⁶After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

⁷Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

⁸Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

⁹For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.

¹⁰But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.

Homework Questions:

1. List 3 scriptures that support the resurrection of the dead.
2. Why is the resurrection of believers a critical part of our faith?
3. In your own words, what does a Christian "look" like? (e.g. practices, language, ideals, ambitions, etc.)

The Resurrection is not just important; it is "of first importance," because all that we believe hinges on it. If He was not raised, there is no Gospel to preach

The truth of the resurrection had doctrinal and practical implications for life that were too important to ignore.

Paul dealt with the subject by answering four basic questions.

1. ARE THE DEAD RAISED? (1 COR. 15:1-19)
2. WHEN ARE THE DEAD RAISED? (1 COR. 15:20-28)
3. WHY ARE THE DEAD RAISED? (1 COR. 15:29-34, 49-58)
4. HOW ARE THE DEAD RAISED? (1 COR. 15:35-48)

ARE THE DEAD RAISED? (1 COR. 15:1-19)

It is important to note that the believers at Corinth did believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ; so Paul started his argument with that fundamental truth.

He presented three proofs to assure his readers that Jesus Christ indeed had been raised from the dead:

Proof #1—their salvation (vv. 1-2).

- Paul's readers had received the Word, trusted Christ, been saved, and were now standing on that Word as the assurance of their salvation.
- The fact that they were standing firm was proof that their faith was genuine and not empty.

Romans 10:17 (KJV) ¹⁷So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 8:31 (KJV) ³¹Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

Proof #2—the Old Testament Scriptures (vv. 3-4).

- *First of all* means “of first importance.” The Gospel is the most important message that the church ever proclaims.
- “Christ died ... He was buried ... He rose again ... He was seen” are the basic historical *facts* on which the Gospel stands (1 Cor. 15:3-5).
- “Christ died *for our sins*” is the theological explanation of the historical facts. Many people were crucified by the Romans, but only one “victim” ever died for the sins of the world.
- When Paul wrote “according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3) he was referring to the Old Testament Scriptures. Much of the sacrificial system in the Old Testament pointed to the sacrifice of Christ as our substitute and Savior. The annual Day of Atonement (Lev. 16) and prophecies like Isaiah 53 would also come to mind.

But where does the Old Testament declare His resurrection on the third day?

1. Jesus pointed to the experience of Jonah (Matt. 12:38-41).
2. Paul also compared Jesus' resurrection to the “firstfruits,” and the firstfruits were presented to God on the day following the Sabbath after Passover (Lev. 23:9-14; 1 Cor. 15:23).
 - a. Since the Sabbath must always be the seventh day, the day after Sabbath must be the *first* day of the week, or Sunday, the day of the Lord's resurrection.
 - b. This covers three days on the Jewish calendar.
3. There are several other prophecies of Jesus' resurrection in the Old Testament: Psalm 16:8-11 (see Acts 2:25-28); Psalm 22:22ff (see Heb. 2:12); Isaiah 53:10-12; and Psalm 2:7 (see Acts 13:32-33).

Proof #3—Christ was seen by witnesses (vv. 5-11).

1. On the cross, Jesus was exposed to the eyes of unbelievers.
2. He was seen by believers who could be witnesses of His resurrection (Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:32).
3. Peter saw Him and so did the disciples collectively.
4. James was a half brother of the Lord who became a believer after the Lord appeared to him (John 7:5; Acts 1:14).
5. The 500 *plus* brethren all saw Him at the same time (1 Cor. 15:6), so it could not have been a hallucination or a deception. This event may have been just before His ascension (Matt. 28:16ff).
6. But one of the greatest witnesses of the Resurrection was Paul himself, for as an unbeliever he was soundly convinced that Jesus was dead.

Monday Morning Moment

The Resurrection is not just important; it is "of first importance," because all that we believe hinges on it.

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NLT) ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:29 (NLT) ²⁹If the dead will not be raised, what point is there in people being baptized for those who are dead? Why do it unless the dead will someday rise again?