

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 15:1-55

Text: Matt. 28: 6, “He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.”

Jesus Predicted His Resurrection

Jesus taught His disciples and said to them, in Mark 9:31, *“The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”* He challenged his enemies: *“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”* He was speaking about his body (John 2:19-22).

His Bodily Resurrection

When Christ rose from the dead, He was no longer a man of *“flesh and blood”*; but a man of man of *“flesh and bones”*. He was raised in newness of life. He said to His disciples on resurrection day, *“handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have”* (Lk.24:39).

The Proof of His Resurrection

He appeared to Peter, to the twelve, to the 500 brethren at once, to James, and to all the apostles. Finally Paul tells of his own experience when Jesus appeared to him from heaven, when on the way to Damascus (1 Cor. 15:5-8).

From the Gospels we can add other witnesses, Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-16) and other women, the two men He appeared on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:15, 31), and Thomas, the hard—to –convince disciple.

The Importance of His Resurrection

Without the resurrection Jesus could not have conquered sin or death or hell, and those there great evils would forever be man’s conquerors. The Gospel is empty, meaningless and worthless without it. In other words, even our faith in Christ is vain, if He did not rise from the dead in bodily form (1 Cor.15:17-19). What hope is there, if we only live for a dead Christ in this life, with no prospect of anything in the next?

The Consequence of His Resurrection

The consequence of Christ’s resurrection is that others too will be raised from the dead. Christ is the *“Firstfruits”*, the Pledge of a future *“harvest”* of believers (1 Cor. 15:20). We are going to come out of the grave, because Jesus came out of His grave. He’ll transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body (Phil 3:20-21).

Our salvation depends on our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Rom. 10:9, we are told how to be saved. It says that *“if you confess with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

If a person doesn't not believe in the resurrection of Christ, he has no right to call himself a Christian.

Soli Deo Gloria