

1 CORINTHIANS 15: CHRIST IS RISEN.

I. (1-11) Resurrection Witnesses.

In verses three and four, Paul will describe the *content* of the gospel. Here, he describes how the gospel can be of *benefit* to man. The gospel is only of benefit if it is **received** and if one will **stand** in it.

1Corinthians 2:2 - *For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him **crucified**.*

Paul did not make up this gospel. He **received** it, and Paul **delivered it**.

There are numerous prophetic scriptures and typology on the resurrection.

Isaiah 53:3-5 - *He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

Matthew 12:40 - *“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

- **He was seen by Cephas** in Luke 24:34.
- **Then by the twelve** in Mark 16:14, Luke 24:36-43, and John 20:19-25. This was the meeting where Jesus appeared in the room with the doors and windows shut, and breathed on the disciples, giving them the Holy Spirit.
- **Over five hundred brethren at once** isn't detailed in the gospels, but is suggested by Matthew 28:10 and 28:16-17. During the time after His resurrection, but before His Ascension, Jesus met with His followers on many different occasions.
- **He was seen by James**: This would be **James**, the brother of Jesus.
- **By all the apostles**: This refers to a few different meetings, such as in John 20:26-31, John 21:1-25, Matthew 28:16-20, and Luke 24:44-49.
- **Last of all He was seen by me also** in Acts 9.

II. If there was no resurrection (12-19).

How can they deny the resurrection with so much overwhelming evidence?

- Then Christ is still dead,
- Then our preaching is empty,
- Your faith is empty,
- We are false witnesses,
- There's no forgiveness of sins,
- Those who have died in the faith have ceased to exist,
- We're the most pitiable.

III. (20-23) Christ Is Risen.

Jesus was the **firstfruits** of our resurrection in both senses. In the Old Testament, the offering of firstfruits brought one sheaf of grain to represent and anticipate the rest of the harvest (Leviticus 23:9-14).

“As in the firstfruits offered to God, the Jews were assured of God’s blessing on the whole harvest; so by the resurrection of Christ, our resurrection is insured.” (Trapp)

The Feast of Firstfruits was observed on the day after the Sabbath following Passover (Leviticus 23:9-14). Significantly, Jesus rose from the dead on the exact day of the Feast of Firstfruits, the day after the Sabbath after the Passover.

- By man came death; by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.
- In Adam all die, in Christ, all live.

So He receives resurrection first as **the firstfruits**, and then we receive ours later.

Revelation 1:18 - *“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am **alive** forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*

Psalms 30:3 - *O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me **alive**, that I should not go down to the pit*

Ephesians 2:4-7 - *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*