



1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

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March 31, 2024

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The Importance of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 (NASB)

Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel** which **I preached** to you, which also **you received**, in which also **you stand**, by which also **you are saved**, if you **hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.**

- The four relative clauses show the importance of the gospel
- The warning is important given the context

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The Facts of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NASB)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and that **He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,

- Paul delivered the gospel he received from eyewitnesses: confession of verified truth
- "For" is *hyper* "on behalf of" = substitution
- What happened was predicted in the OT

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Appearances of the Resurrected Christ

1 Corinthians 15:5-6 (NASB)

and that **He appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that **He appeared** to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep

- When Paul wrote, witnesses to Christ in His resurrected body were still living
- Paul demonstrates the objective reality of Christ's resurrection

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According to the Scriptures

- 1) Christ died for our sins (15:3)
- 2) Christ was buried (15:4)
- 3) Christ was raised on the third day (15:4)
- 4) He was seen by witnesses (15:5-7)

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Paul Is the Last and Is Unique

1 Corinthians 15:7-8 (NASB)

then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and **last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.**

- 'Untimely' is a word used only here in the NT, 'outside the normal process'
- 'Last of all' here implies the last in a series
- Paul had not seen Christ before the ascension as the others had

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Paul Was An Enemy of Christ

1 Corinthians 15:9 (NASB)

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because **I persecuted the church of God.**

- The Damascus road incident: Acts 9:1-8
- Paul's awareness of the mercy and grace shown him persists throughout his ministry
- See 1 Timothy 1:16

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Grace Alone

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NASB)

But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His **grace** toward me **did not prove vain**; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the **grace** of God with me.

- Grace is not vain - *kenos* 'empty'
- Even labor for the Lord is attributed to His prior, gracious work
- Grace did not make Paul unmotivated!

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Why the Church at Corinth Existed

1 Corinthians 15:11 (NASB)

Whether then it was I or they, **so we preach and so you believed.**

- The resurrection of Christ is central to gospel preaching
- The resurrection of Christ is mentioned in every sermon in the Book of Acts
- Christians believe it because it happened and proves all the claims of Christ

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Implications and Applications

- The Christian faith is grounded in the bodily resurrection of Christ

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To Deny the Resurrection Is to Deny the Believer's Hope

1 Corinthians 15:12-14 (NASB)

Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, **how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and **if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.**

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The Truth Stands

Luke 24:33-34 (NASB)

And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying, **"The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon."**

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