

## **Evidence for Christ's Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15: 1-11)**

- Unlike most of 1 Corinthians, chapter 15 deals entirely with the resurrection
- In these 58 verses Paul gives the most extensive treatment of the resurrection
- The resurrection is the very hinge upon which all Christianity hangs
- Without the resurrection, Paul states bluntly we of all people are to be pitied
- It was the heart & pulse of every other truth Christ taught his disciples
- Paul was not trying to convince them that Christ had been raised from the dead
- The difficulty they faced was believing that they would be raised from the dead

### **I. The Testimony of the Church (15:1,2)**

- The fact that the Corinthians had been changed was evidence of the resurrection
- Vs 3-4 gives the Gospel: Christ died for sins, was buried & raised on the third day
- Paul encourages them to hold fast to the Gospel he preached to them to the end
- Who but the living Christ could transform the lives of murderers & adulterers

### **II. The Testimony of the Scriptures (15: 3,4)**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> evidence for the resurrection was the Old Testament Scripture of witness
- On the road to Emmaus, Jesus taught this from the law & prophets (Lk 24: 25)
- When the Pharisees attacked Jesus he pointed to the resurrection (Matt 12: 39-40)
- Peter quotes the Old Testament, as did Paul on the resurrection (Acts 2:25-31; 26)

### **III. The Testimony of the Witnesses (15:5-7)**

- Jesus' appearance to Peter: Jesus appeared to Peter first to restore him
- Jesus appears to the 12: to his disciples who were fearfully gathered (Jhn 20:19 )
- Jesus appears to the five hundred: a vast group still alive while Paul was writing
- Jesus appeared to James: this most likely was Jesus half brother who wrote James

### **IV. The Testimony of a Special Witness (15:8-11)**

- A unique witness, Jesus appeared to Paul post resurrection & post ascension
- Jesus appeared to Paul as one untimely born, He was not around with the others
- Paul was overwhelmed with God's grace to Him, that God made him an apostle

### **V. The Testimony of the Common Message (15: 11)**

- Paul says, whether it was me, or another who preached, 'so you believed
- The resurrection was the message of every Christian in the New Testament
- And it will be the Gospel heart throughout the ages for the rest of history