

Exposing the myth of The Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:1-19¹

^{15:1} Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

The resurrection is a matter of “First Importance” (3)

- Christ died (3) . . . he was buried (4).
- Christ rose (4) . . . he appeared (5-8).

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1996, c1984. Zondervan: Grand Rapids

What might have happened?

- Christ “swooned,” only to revive later.
- The disciples stole the body on Sunday morning.
- The soldiers conspired with the disciples to steal Jesus’ corpse.
- The disciples went to the wrong tomb.

If the Resurrection is a myth, what have we lost?

- Our faith is lost (14, 17).
- Our forgiveness is lost (17).
- Our future is lost (19).
- Our family & friends who embraced the Christian message and then died are lost (18).
- Our integrity is lost (15).

Evidence for the Resurrection

- The empty tomb.
- The post-resurrection appearances.
- The changed lives of the early followers of Christ.

Conclusions

- Our faith is not futile, but well-placed.
- Our forgiveness is not lost, but complete.
- Our future is not hopeless, but hope-filled.
- Our family and friends who have died in Christ are safe in the arms of Jesus.
- Our integrity is not compromised, but maintained.

HE IS NOT DEAD. HE IS RISEN INDEED!