

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Moreover brethren I declare to you the gospel which I preached to  
**AS WE BEGIN**
- II) Ch 15 is devoted entirely to one central doctrine: The resurrection  
Among the various **false doctrines** which had crept into the church at Corinth, composed of those who had so recently been heathen, and who had so much to unlearn, was one that **the resurrection** was **only the resurrection of the soul from sin** to a new life  
False teachers were teaching that this resurrection was **already past** in the case of those converted, and that a resurrection after death **was impossible**.  
**AT THIS TIME**
- III) Greek intellectuals believed that the belief in resurrection was **absurd**  
This is clearly seen when Paul was preaching in to the Greeks in Athens  
Ac 17:31-32 (God) has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men *by raising him from the dead.*" When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject.
- IV) False teachers were infusing this skepticism into the church  
It wasn't something just in Corinth, but found in other churches (Ephesus)  
2 Ti 2:16-18 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they **destroy the faith of some**  
**WHY WOULD THIS MATTER?**
- V) Aren't the moral and spiritual lessons enough?  
Does it matter if Jesus was resurrected? Does it matter if we are?  
Isn't the more important thing simply for us to live a satisfied life?
- VI) **The resurrection of Jesus** is of utmost importance to the gospel message  
This is because Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion.  
The resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, **Christianity is destroyed**.  
**AS WE BEGIN**
- VII) I will give five reasons why resurrection is central to our faith  
Jesus was God in human flesh: His divinity is proven by the resurrection  
Ro 1:4 (Jesus was) declared to be *the Son of God* with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

**SECOND**

I) The Lordship of Jesus depends on His resurrection

Ro 14:9 To this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that **He might be Lord** both of the dead and living.

**THIRD**

II) Our justification rests on His resurrection

Ro 4:25 (He) was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification

**FOURTH**

III) Our salvation depends on His resurrection

Ro 10:9 If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has **raised him from the dead**, you shall be saved.

**FIFTH**

IV) Our own resurrection rests on whether or not Jesus was raised from the dead

Ro 8:11 If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.

V) This is why Paul writes at such length concerning the doctrine of the resurrection

This is also why Satan has worked so hard to undermine the resurrection

VI) The entire ministry of Jesus rests on whether or not He was resurrected

It was something that He taught often and is central to our faith

Mk 8:31 He began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, **and after three days rise again.**

**THE RESURRECTION IS CENTRAL TO THE GOSPEL**

VII) Genuine gospel preaching centers on the resurrection

Peter's first sermon centered on Christ's resurrection

Ac 2:22-23 You men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as you yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken, and by wicked hands *have crucified and slain:*

Ac 2:32 This Jesus has *God raised up*, whereof we all are witnesses.

VIII) All **true gospel** teaching and preaching centers on this one event

**BEGIN**

IX) V1-2 Moreover brethren I declare to you **the gospel** which I preached to you

- I) Paul begins by addressing the Corinthians as **brethren**  
To these Christians Paul **declares** (to clarify; to make known) the gospel  
He is **reminding** them of what they already have been taught
- II) I declare to you **the gospel** which I **preached** to you which also **you received** and in  
They had not only **heard the** gospel message, they had **received it**  
**Received:** Welcomed, with the heart to obey  
**Stand:** To be established in
- III) V2 By which also **you are saved** if you **hold fast** that word which I preached to you  
Receiving and standing in the gospel has enabled them **to be saved**
- IV) They continue in God's word and it demonstrates that they are saved  
They are not false brethren if they truly are holding fast to the word  
Heb 3:14 We have become partakers of Christ *if we hold* the beginning of our  
confidence steadfast *to the end*  
**NOTICE HE ADDS**
- V) V2 Unless you *believed in vain*  
This is a warning against what could be called a **non-saving faith**
- VI) This is a faith of none effect because it is not genuinely placed in Jesus  
Jn 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My  
word, you are My disciples indeed
- VII) The fact that they **held fast to** what had been preached demonstrated salvation  
Yet, **as is true in every gathering**, some among them were not genuinely saved  
Paul warns those who **intellectually** believe Jesus' saviorhood and resurrection
- VIII) Paul desires them to **truly know** whether they truly do *follow after Jesus*  
They need to check out their own hearts to see if they are truly saved  
2 Co 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.  
Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you --unless, of course, you fail the test?  
**WHAT IS IT THEY ARE TO BELIEVE?**
- IX) V3-8 I *delivered* to you first of all that which I also **received**  
Paul had to *be saved* in order to preach salvation
- X) He did not invent or **design** the gospel, he simply **delivered** it

- I) I did not **invent the gospel**, but I received it by faith and shared it with you  
Gal 1:11-12 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- II) I am giving to you what was given to me: the message of salvation  
What are the essential elements of this great news?
- III) **FIRST**: Christ **died for our sins** according to the scriptures (Ps 22; Jn 3:16; Ro 5:8)  
Is 53:8-10 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Who can speak of his descendants? For *He was cut off from the land of the living*; for the transgression of my people He was stricken. **He was assigned a grave with the wicked**, and with the rich **in His death**, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the LORD **makes His life a guilt offering**, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand  
1 Pe 2:24 (Jesus) Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.
- IV) **SECOND**: He was buried: (Isaiah's passage reveals this)  
Lu 23:53 records how Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before  
This also fulfilled Is 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked and with the rich in His death
- V) **THIRD**: He rose again the third day (He was Resurrected)  
Hosea 6:2 After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His presence  
Ps 16:10 you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay  
Is 53:10 After He has suffered, He will see the light of life and be satisfied
- VI) Jesus prophesied this  
Mt 12:39-40 A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.

- I) V5-7 And that He was **seen by Cephas** then by the twelve  
These verses declare that Jesus' resurrection was attested to by eyewitnesses  
Lu 1:1-2 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were **eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us**
- II) The reason is to make it clear that His resurrection **is a real event**  
To demonstrate that the resurrection was real, Paul refers to eyewitnesses  
2 Co 13:1 Every mttter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses (Dt 19:15)
- III) V5 He was seen by Cephas (the Apostle Peter)  
Lu 24:34 (Emmaus witnesses) The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon Peter is mentioned first to represent the other apostles  
2 Pe 1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- IV) V6 Then by the twelve, which is another way of referring to the Apostles  
Obviously, this would omit Judas who had abandoned Jesus  
Jn 20:19-28 records this
- V) Then by over 500 brethren at once  
There is no specific reference to where and when this occurred
- VI) Some think it may have happened in Galilee  
Mt 28:16-17 The 11 disciples went away into Gailee, to the mountain which Jesus had appinted for them. When they say Him, they worshiped Him; **but some doubted**  
This account serves to bolster the fact of the resurrection
- VII) V7 After that He was seen by James, Jesus' brother who once doubted Him (Jn 7)  
James is mentioned because he was leader of the church in Jerusalem (Ac 15)
- VIII) Then by all the apostles  
Other times when He appeared may have included all eleven  
Ac 1:9 (Mt of Olives/ascension) when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight

- I) V8 Then last of all He was seen by me also as by one born out of due time  
After Jesus had ministered so personally to others, He ministered to me  
These others were blessed to have been with Him from the beginning
- II) As for me, I didn't have the experience of experiencing His resurrection as they did  
The last of His appearances **was to me**
- III) The others could be looked at as the firstborn, but I was only an untimely child  
I was Born out of due time: Premature; a life unable to sustain itself
- IV) God was merciful to me, because I was born without the hope but now have life!
- V) V9 For I am the least of the apostles who am not worthy **to be called an apostle**  
He thinks of how Jesus saved him and humbly confesses to his unworthiness  
Ac 26:11 Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them  
punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even  
went to foreign cities to persecute them.
- VI) This is something he never forgot, and something he knew people were aware of  
As a persecutor of the church, his character and calling were questioned  
This was taking place in Corinth, and he admitted to what he once was  
**BUT GOD**
- VII) V10 But by the grace of God I am what I am and His grace toward me was not  
I who once persecuted the church am now bringing people into the church  
God has truly saved me, and filled me with His power and love
- VIII) I am **no more** than the original followers, and am **no less** than them  
As a result, Paul labored as one who was given grace to simply be alive  
He was one who was forgiven much: a powerful motive to share the gospel
- IX) V11 Therefore whether it was I or they so we preach and so you believed  
It doesn't matter if you heard the gospel from others, or from me  
**What matters** is you heard the message and you believed!