



Sermon Series: Resurrection: The Future of Every Follower of Jesus, Part 1

Sermon Title: In This We Take Our Stand

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer, June 6, 2021

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Belief in a bodily resurrection contradicted the prevailing Greco-Roman understanding of the afterlife. They denied the possibility of a physical resurrection. Some in the Corinthian church likewise denied the resurrection.

Big Idea: The good news is no news without belief in the resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 identifies 2 components to that belief.

Component 1: The Way We Must Believe

1 Corinthians 15:1b

The word, “gospel” simply means “good news.” The good news is there is a God who loves you and paid the ultimate price to save you from a lonely and terrifying eternal existence. He proved it by rising from the dead with a body that will never age or die. The way you believe is of utmost importance.

Your must receive it. (15:1) It becomes the foundation of your life. (15:1b) You take your stand, not on what you’ve done, but what Jesus did.

You must grasp it firmly. We don’t hold it loosely. There is no thought of letting go. **1 Corinthians 15:2**

True believers take their stand on and persevere in the faith. **Hebrews 3:14**

The way we believe is a critically important component. But equally important is the content of what you believe.

Component 2: What We Must Believe

1 Corinthians 15:3a refers here to “what was most important from the very beginning.” Before the actual writing of the gospels the Good News spread around the Rom Empire by means of a disciplined word-for-word memorization of a statement of faith.

From the start, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ were essential to anyone who claimed salvation in Him.

Christ died for our sins (15:3b). The Bible tells us, **1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)** — “**He himself bore our sins**” in his body on the cross ...

According to the scriptures (15:3b). He was the suffering servant prophesied by Isaiah 53 which, when you read those passages, it obviously predicts the death of the Messiah.

Some explain away the resurrection by asserting Jesus didn't really die on the cross. But the romans were experts at execution. Jesus didn't merely swoon and regain his strength. **He was buried (4).**

Raised on the third day (4b). He promises a similar resurrection for everyone who puts their trust in Him.

1 Corinthians 15:5-7 then supply a list of eyewitnesses who certify the truth of the resurrection.

Peter, also called Cephas by Paul (vs 5), the twelve. Simply refers to the original band of apostles.

Appeared to more than 500 at the same time (6). The statement that most were still alive at the time of Paul's writing (early to mid-50s AD) is a clear indication that witnesses could be interrogated regarding their experience. The fact that it's 20-25 years after the event doesn't diminish the impact of their eyewitness testimony.

James (7). This refers to the Lord's brother. James certainly knew who his brother was and recognized him. History indicates James became the central leader of the Church in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' ascension. Without a doubt, no one expected anyone to see the risen Savior until his 2nd coming. That's why Paul describes his own experience of the risen Christ as nothing short of abnormal in its timing. He then humbly acknowledges his own sense of unworthiness due to his murderous persecution of the 1st century Christians. **1 Corinthians 15:8–10**

1 Corinthians 15:11 (NIV) —**This is what we preach, and this is what you believed.**

Paul emphasized to the Corinthians that their salvation rests on their belief in the historic elements of the gospel

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Why is the resurrection a vital part to salvation?
- Read Isaiah 53. In what ways does this parallel Jesus life? Could this be interpreted as anyone else but Jesus?
- Why are the eyewitnesses that Paul cites crucial for as evidence of Jesus resurrection?
- Explain why the way you believe in Jesus is important to salvation. What does it look like when someone is insincere in their belief?
- How would you explain the gospel to an 8 year old?

BIBLE VERSES

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 (NIV) ¹ Now, brothers and sisters, 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 Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters 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 is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Hebrews 3:14 (NIV) We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV) “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross