

**RESURRECTION DAY 2023**  
**“IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION, THERE IS NO GOSPEL”**  
**1st Corinthians 15:1-58**

**INTRODUCTION:** Human beings are unique in God’s creation for many reasons. We have the capacity and need to give and receive love, forgiveness, and to make moral decisions as we exercise our wills. We have been given spirits that have the capability to communicate with the Spirit of God our Creator. We also have an awareness of the spiritual world, and questions about what happens after death.

**BACKGROUND:** The early Church began to worship on the first day of the week, instead of the Jewish Sabbath day (Saturday) in honor of the Sunday morning Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. An annual “Easter” observance was not agreed upon until centuries later. However, a false religion that had spread worldwide over thousands of years had religious celebrations that eventually became accepted by professing Christians. The most well known honored a female goddess whose son was violently killed, and his death was mourned for 40 days. At that time, he was reportedly raised from the dead, ushered in the Spring season, and conquered the forces of evil. Satan always has counterfeits. We need to know the truth! (Ezekiel 8:12-16) (Jeremiah 7:12-19) (Jeremiah 44:15-25).

**I. WE TAKE OUR ETERNAL STAND ON THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRST. CAN I GET A WITNESS? (1st Corinthians 15:1-11)**

A. The Old Testament Scriptures foretold the mission and work of Christ. (Genesis 3) (Psalm 22) (Isaiah 53) (Hosea 6) We have received Him and taken our stand upon His finished work. Anything else has no “legs” on which to stand!

B. At different times and various locations, Jesus strategically appeared to certain individuals and groups of people after His Resurrection. The undeniable fact that He had conquered the grave is why the Church grew by the thousands after His earthly ministry and Crucifixion. Paul’s untimely birth (conversion to Christ) is a prototype of how Israel will one day believe on Jesus. He was thankful for his call to ministry because of his violent past and “outworked” the other apostles to express his gratitude. God’s grace was not wasted on Paul!

**II. MANY PEOPLE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING WILL BE BODILY RESURRECTED. ONE DAY SOON, EVERYONE WILL BELIEVE! (1st Corinthians 15:12-38)**

A. Cultural influences and philosophies caused many to deny a bodily resurrection. **Epicureans** lived for pleasure and did not believe in life after death, so their motto was “eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.” **Stoics** (nothing bothers me) believed all souls would merge with Deity after death, losing personal identity. **Plato** had convinced many of the immortality of the soul, but no bodily resurrection. Jewish **Sadducees** did not believe in resurrection or life after death. Greeks generally felt the body was inherently evil, not worthy of redemption, and that bodily activity did not affect the soul/spirit.

B. Scripture teaches us the horrible consequences that would result **if** there was no resurrection:

1. If Christ did not rise from the grave, our preaching and your faith is worthless.(1 Cor. 1:18)
2. All the witnesses to His Resurrection are liars if the dead have not been raised. (2 Peter 1:16)
3. We are all still trapped in our sinful condition, guilty before God, with no remedy possible. (Col. 1:13)
4. All who died believing in Christ are doomed, and you will never see your loved ones again. (Rev. 20)
5. We are sacrificing earthly pleasures for no good reason, and deserve to be pitied. (Col. 3:24)

**III. IT IS TIME TO MOVE FROM SPECULATION TO PROCLAMATION. HE IS RISEN! (1st Corinthians 15: 20-34)**

- A. Christ is the first fruits of the Resurrection. Countless others will follow. One man, Adam, brought death to the entire human race. One man, Jesus the Christ, brings life from the dead. (v. 20-23) (Matthew 27:52-53)
- B. The God-Man must reign until all enemies have been destroyed at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. Physical death is still considered an enemy because it separates us from loved ones. Spiritually, Christ has already abolished death (2nd Timothy 2:8-12)
- C. Many were being baptized knowing their public declaration of faith would result in death. Many more followed their example. Paul said he died daily! Why suffer if there is no resurrection? (v. 29-31) Bad company can corrupt good manners! Wake up to righteous living and stop sinning! (v. 32-34)

**IV. ANSWERING FOOLISH QUESTIONS ABOUT RESURRECTION BODIES (1st Corinthians 15:35-58)**

- A. Seeds planted in the earth have to die (disintegrate) before giving birth to their new bodies. (John 12:24-25) God fashions bodies of all kinds to fit their environment. Our bodies will be “sown” in the earth in weakness, but one day we will be raised in spiritual power! (v. 35-44)
- B. God sees all humans in the first Adam, sinners doomed to death. Jesus Christ is the last Adam, representing all who were crucified with Him and recipients of eternal life in Christ. One day, believers will receive glorified bodies just like His! (v.45-49) (Philippians 3:20-21)
- C. Our human bodies have to be changed so we won't be consumed by the glorious Presence of the Lord and the beauty of Heaven. Our bodies will forever experience pleasure, greater than the occasional moments we have on earth. One day soon, the Lord will change our bodies into glorious ones, faster than you can blink your eyes! We will never again have a concern about death or physical limitations. (1st Corinthians 15:50-56) (1st Thessalonians 4:13-18) (1st John 3:1-3)

**WE HAVE THE VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH BECAUSE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! DO NOT LET ANYTHING OR ANYONE DISCOURAGE YOU FROM GOING ALL OUT FOR JESUS. OUR LABOR OF LOVE WILL BE REWARDED. (1st Corinthians 15:57-58)**

**SINCE HE DIED FOR YOU, WILL YOU RESPOND TO HIS LOVE AND LIVE FOR HIM?**

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