

The Order of the Resurrections **1 Corinthians 15:23**

[Maybe we will all live to be 100. And with any luck, we won't die in an embarrassing way like...]

- Overdosing on Rogaine.
- Mooning from the back of a speeding pickup—and falling out.
- Exploding in a pie-eating contest.
- Drowning in a bowl of cereal after taking too many shots of nighttime NyQuil.
- Being shot to death by a salad shooter (there was a carrot in the chamber, and he never saw it coming).
- Being hit by an ice-cream truck would be embarrassing, and quite sad. The last thing you would hear is that crazy, out-of-tune music fading, and a dozen kids screaming...as they chased after the truck.
- How about bleeding to death from a safety-scissors injury?
- Or suffocating in the ball pit at a chuck-E-cheese?
- No self respecting outdoorsmen would want to die in a hunting accident, falling asleep in a tree-top deer stand, only to tumble thirty-six feet to the forest floor and then be shot by your own gun as it goes off.
- Some have died accidentally by using a blow dryer while taking a shower, one guy choked to death in a Jell-O eating contest and another person died overdosing on suppositories, or dying while trying to see who can put the most marshmallows in his mouth; or snorting Sweet-n-Low to get high.

INSERT: YOU MIGHT BE DEAD...

1. The resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ (John 11:25; 1 Cor.15:3-23; Eph.1:19-20; Phil.3:10-11; Phil 3:20-21).

*No tabloid will ever print the startling news that the mummified body of Jesus of Nazareth has been discovered in Old Jerusalem. Christians have no carefully embalmed body enclosed in a glass case to worship. Thanks God, we have an empty tomb. The glorious fact that the empty tomb proclaims to us is that life for us does not stop when death comes. Death is not a **wall**, but a **door**. ~ Late Chaplain of the U.S. Senate Peter Marshall*

Jesus permanently fills the right-hand position of God; we are already in Him, and He is going nowhere. ~ Dave Edwards, What happens when I die?

Jesus appeared...

- ❑ To Mary Magdalene in John 20:10-18
- ❑ To the other women in Matthew 28:8-10
- ❑ To Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-32
- ❑ To eleven disciples and others in Luke 24:33-49
- ❑ To ten apostles and others, with Thomas absent, in John 20:19-23

- ❑ To Thomas and the other apostles in John 20:26-30
- ❑ To seven apostles in John 21:1-14
- ❑ To the disciples in Matthew 28:16-20
- ❑ And he was with the apostles at the Mount of Olives before His ascension in Luke 24:50-52 and Acts 1:4-9

Without question, the amount of testimony and corroboration of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances is staggering. To put it in perspective, if you were to call each one of the witnesses to a court of law to be cross-examined for just fifteen minutes each, and you went around the clock without a break, it would take you from breakfast on Monday until dinner on Friday to hear them all. After listening to 129 hours of eyewitness testimony, who could possibly walk away unconvinced? ~ Lee Strobel, the Case for Easter

“The enemy was not Rome, as many suspected, nor any of the surrounding nations and cultures that even today gnash their teeth at the Jewish people. The enemy to be conquered was not a despot but death. Not a government but the grave. Not holocaust but hopelessness. Not soldiers but sin. In the face of war and hate and terror, no foe in any age *has* ever, *can* ever, or *will* ever be able to take back the ground that Christ won *forever*—the fear of hell, the sting of death!”

~ Dr. James Merritt, Crown Him King

2. The resurrection of the church at the rapture (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor.15:51-57; 1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 John 3:2; Rev.20:6).

“There I was, driving down the freeway and all of a sudden the place went crazy...cars going in all directions...and not one of them had a driver. I mean it was wild! I think we’ve got an invasion from outer space!”

“It was the last quarter of the championship game and the other side was ahead. Our boys had the ball. We had made a touchdown and tied it up. The crowd went crazy. Only one minute to go and they fumbled—our quarterback recovered—he was about a yard from the goal when—zap—no more quarterback—completely gone, just like that!”

“It was puzzling—very puzzling. I was teaching my course in the Philosophy of Religion when all of a sudden three of my students vanished! They simply vanished! They were quite argumentative—always trying to prove their point from the Bible. No great loss to the class. However, I do find this disappearance very difficult to explain.”

The Late Great Planet Earth ~ Hal Lindsey

3. The resurrection of Tribulational *martyrs* and the **Old** Testament believers (Job 19:25-26; Isa.26:19-21; Dan.12:13; Heb.11:39-40; Rev.20:4).
4. The resurrection of the *millennial* saints (Revelation 20:5).
5. The resurrection and condemnation of all *unbelievers* (Revelation 20:13-15).

There's no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than the doctrine of hell, if it lay in my power. But it has the full support of Scripture, especially of our Lord's own words; it has always been held by Christendom and it has the support of reason. ~ C.S. Lewis

Closing: Three practical decisions to help us cope with life...

1. Choose to view life through God's eyes.

[Ask Him to transform your thinking. Let Him do what you cannot.]

[The biblical view of life after life is that heaven is for sinners and hell is for good people!]

[Hell swarms with people who were good, moral people but were too proud to drop their front.]

2. Surrender your expectations.

[Stop trying to change the universe to work the way you should think it should.]

[We choose to advance our own agenda and then try to blame everything but ourselves.]

We've done more finger pointing than a fat guy in a donut shop!

[Release your grip on what you want, no matter how good or right you think it is.]

[As you surrender your expectations, ask the Lord to show you His plan.]

3. Acknowledge the resurrection of Jesus Christ and stake your future upon it.

Death occurs on many levels and the resurrection of Jesus impacts them all!

For the believer, death is the beginning, the hyperlink to eternity!

***Death without the life of Christ is the final 'fatal error';
the hard-drive crash with no hope of recovery.***