b2b: christianity 101

01 The Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:1-8; 12-14

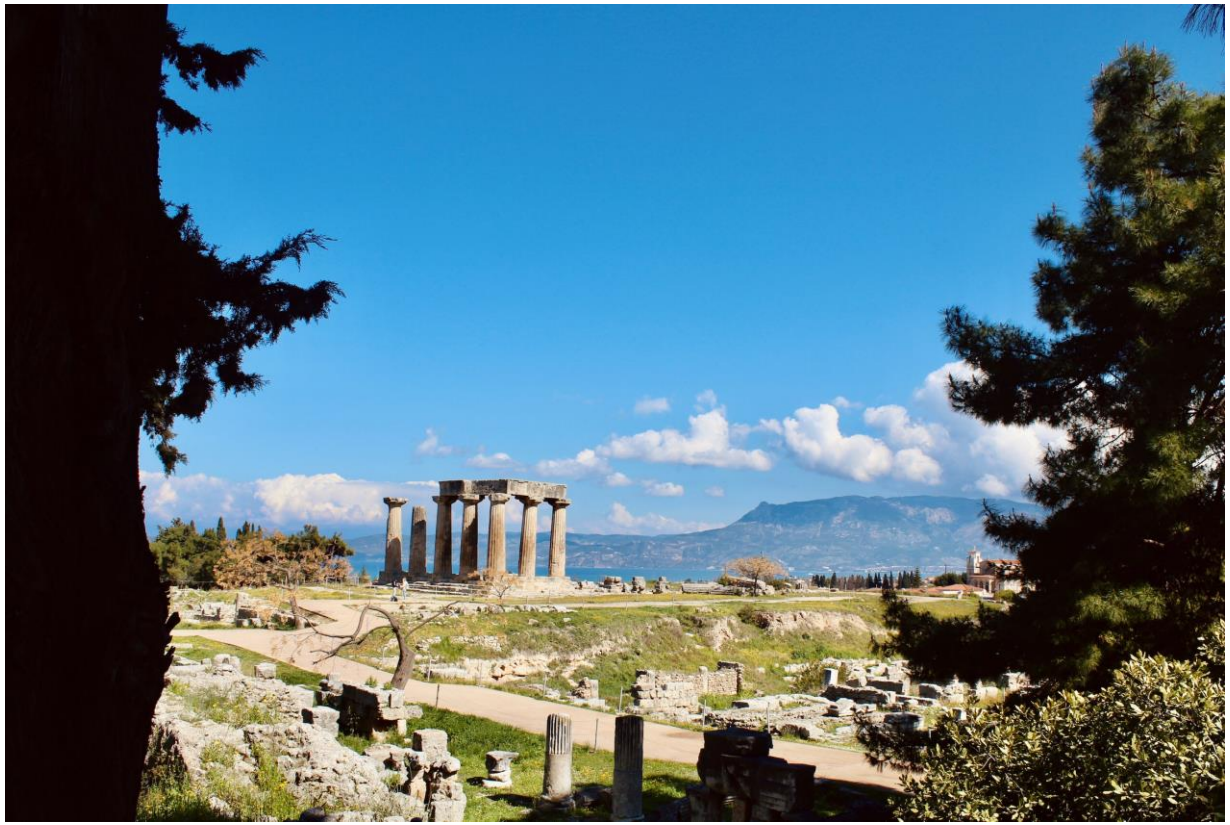
Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand ***2*** *and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.* ***3*** *For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: 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, then to the Twelve.*

1 Corinthians 15:1-8; 12-14

6 Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me… Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, "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, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith.

Corinth





Corinth



I. The resurrection is essential to the gospel message

- *If* No Resurrection, then No Gospel.
- *3 For I passed on to you as most important
  what I also received: 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,*
- The Cross + The Resurrection

II. the resurrection is essential to the Christian faith

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, “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, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith. 15 Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that he raised up Christ—whom he did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. 19 If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

III. the Resurrection is a verifiable fact

- Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion.*
  - *Christianity is a nice thing for you, but it's not based on fact.*
- The resurrection is based upon fact.
  - J.P. Moreland, "the apostles were willing to die for something they had seen with their own eyes and touched with their own hands. They were in a unique position not to just believe Jesus rose from the dead but to know for sure. And when you've got eleven credible people with no ulterior motives, with nothing to gain and a lot to lose, who all agree they observed something with their own eyes – now you've got some difficulty explaining that away."
- Lee Stroebel, *The Case for Christ.*
- The resurrection is not a deluded wish, but a verifiable fact.

IV. the resurrection of Jesus guarantees our own

“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. 53 For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality. 54 When this corruptible body is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place:

Death has been swallowed up in victory. 55 Where, death, is your victory? Where, death, is your sting?

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!” 1 Cor. 15:52-57

Resurrection Basics Recap

What do Christians believe?

- The bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a verifiable fact of history that is affirmed by Scripture. Our entire faith is founded upon it.

Why do we believe it?

- It happened!
  - The tomb was empty.
  - Eleven credible people interacted with the resurrected Christ.
  - 500+ people saw the resurrected Christ.
  - Apostle Paul delivered this news “as matter of first importance.”

Resurrection Basics Recap

***How* does this belief shape our lives?**

God is…

- Sovereign over history
- Victorious over sin and death.
- Trustworthy.
- Alive and active.

Implications…

- Sin, Death have no lasting sting
- What we see and experience is not all that there is, all will be.
- We can have firm confidence and assurance in Jesus and His promises.
- We are indwelled with God's powerful Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11).
- If God raised Jesus, then there is nothing in my life that is too big, too scary, too dark.