

The Evidence and Importance of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:1-19

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1. 1 Corinthians 15:1-12 is the great resurrection chapter of the Bible.
 2. Paul presents a tremendous testimony to the resurrection of Jesus.
 3. Let's consider what credible evidence there is for me to believe in the resurrection. Why is the resurrection so important?
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- I. The Evidence for the Resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:3-11
 - A. The evidence of the scriptures. "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," (15:3-4)
 - B. The evidence of the eye-witnesses. "and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles," (15:5-7)
 - C. The evidence of the Apostle Paul. "and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 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. 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." (15:8-10)
 - D. The evidence of the Gospel message. "Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed." (15:11)

 - II. The Importance of the Resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
 - A. Without the resurrection Christ is just another man. "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised." (15:13)
 - B. Without the resurrection the Gospel is meaningless. "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (15:14)
 - C. Without the resurrection the witnesses are liars. "More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised." (15:15)
 - D. Without the resurrection we are doomed in our sins. "For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." (15:16-17)
 - E. Without the resurrection believers have perished. "Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost." (15:18)
 - F. Without the resurrection believers are to be pitied. "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." (15:19)