

The Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15

Three views of after-life

1. **Epicurean materialism:** no life after death. Acts 17:32
2. **Stoicism:** soul merges with deity; loses its personality. Seneca.

¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,
¹⁸ who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that **the resurrection is already past**, and they overthrow the faith of some – 2 Timothy 2.

The Resurrection, 1 Co.15

1. In Harmony With Scriptures, 1-4

O. T. Prophecies

- To deny resurrection, must deny O.T. prophecies. Is.53.

Never says He 'slept'
as of Christians (v.6).

- Corinthians had received this truth (v.1).
 - Good to be reminded of basics... lest we forget.

The Resurrection, 1 Co.15

1. In Harmony With Scriptures, 1-4

2. Confirmed By Witnesses, 5-11

'Was seen' (5-8)

Quantity. Must be enough

1. Apostles: told truth? lied? mistaken?

**What if they were mistaken?

- a. He never spoke to them
- b. No signs to confirm message
- c. Persecution – for what?
- d. How to explain Peter? (Jn.21...)
- e. ... James? (Jn.7; 1 Co.15:7)

'Was seen' (5-8)

Quantity. Must be enough

1. Apostles: told truth? lied? mistaken?

**What if they were mistaken?

f. How to explain Mary? (Jn.20)

g. ...Thomas? (Jn.20)

h. ...No one recanted?

i. ...OT prophecies? 1 Co.15 . . .

j. ...church? Ac.2 . . . How? Why?

k. ... 500+ witnesses?

'Was seen' (5-8)

Quantity. Must be enough

Quality. Must be reliable

1. Peter, Lk.24:34
2. Twelve, Lk.24:34-43
3. 500+, Mt.28:7, 10 (?). Ac.26:26
4. James. Mk.3:20-21; Ac.1:14; Ga.1
5. All apostles
6. Paul, 8-11

'Was seen' (5-8)

Quantity. Must be enough

Quality. Must be reliable

Paul:

- 8: as premature child (not usual time to become apostle)
- 9: champion of persecutors; Ac.9
- 10-11, all preach same facts

Peter ... James ... Paul

What some were saying (v.12)

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2. Confirmed By Witnesses, 5-11

3. Consequences of '*There Is No Resurrection,*' 12-19

Consequences (v.12)

13: if there is no resurrection . . . (13-15)

- Christ not risen
- Our preaching is empty
- Your faith is empty
- We are false witnesses

APOSTLES

16: if the dead do not rise . . . (16-19)

- Christ not risen
- Your faith is vain
- You are still in sins
- Dead must perish; living most pitiful

CORINTHIANS

Consequences



13: Christ is not raised.

14: preaching is vain (empty, void, lie)

14: faith vain. Ro.10:17

15-17: still in sins. Ro.4:25

18: perish at death. 1 Th.4:13-18

19: die lost.

We've only just begun

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2. Confirmed By Witnesses, 5-11

3. Consequences of 'There Is No Res.,' 12-19

4. **Firstfruits**, 20-23

Firstfruits guarantee 'second'-fruits

21, Adam: firstfruits of death (22)

- Since Adam's sin, all must die

22, Christ: firstfruits of resurrection (22)

- Since His resurrection, all must live
- Two 'alls' (22) – as Jn.5:28-29

God's Glory

1. In Harmony With Scriptures, 1-4

2. Confirmed By Witnesses, 5-11

3. Consequences of 'There Is No Res.,' 12-19

4. Firstfruits, 20-23

5. **God Must Be 'All In All,'** 24-28

God: glorified to the fullest

24-26, to deliver kingdom to God,
what must take place?

1. Destroy every enemy. Josh.10:22
2. Last enemy: death, 26.

27-28, will God let death keep Him
from being 'all in all'?

- Celsus, Roman physician, AD 220

Is resurrection more difficult than
original creation (Gn.2:7)? 3:19

How to think about the dead

1. In Harmony With Scriptures, 1-4

2. Confirmed By Witnesses, 5-11

3. Consequences of 'There Is No Res.,' 12-19

4. Firstfruits, 20-23

5. God Must Be 'All In All,' 24-28

6. **Baptism For The Dead, 29**

Mormon doctrine is false

Ezk.18:20; 2 Co.5:10

'For' in English: 21 meanings

'Concerning'

1. *'be thus minded of you all'* – Ph.1:7
2. *'think of me'* (care for me, be interested in me) – Ph.4:10

Everyone views death in some way

Most view death negatively

Corinthians: body stays that way (no resurrection)

Gospel: in baptism – death, burial, resurrection

Corinthians must change preaching or practice

Either **bury** in water
(do not let him up –
no resurrection)

Or **admit
resurrection**
(let him up – **DBR**)

Conclusion: 32-34

1. If we die like dogs, may as well live like them.

*But if we do not . . . then rise (Ro.6)
anticipating final resurrection

2. 'Without a doubt, the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation on which Christianity is built. Destroy the belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus and Christianity has been destroyed.'