



Now when they heard of the *resurrection of the dead*, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this." –Acts 17:32

### The Resurrection is <u>Factual</u> (vv. 1-11)

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..."

—1 Corinthians 15:3-4—

### The Resurrection is Factual (vv. 1-11)

### A. The Gospel of Christ (vv. 1-4)

- Truth Preached: Paul emphasizes that the gospel he preached isn't a mere tradition but an unchanging truth.
  - >It was delivered to him, and he faithfully delivered it to others.
  - >This transmission of truth continues through preaching & faith.

#### Purpose of the Gospel:

- >It's not mere intellectual acceptance; it leads to salvation.
- ➤ Persevering faith results in spiritual rebirth and deliverance from sin's penalty.

### The Resurrection is <u>Factual</u> (vv. 1-11)

### B. The Appearances of the Risen Christ (vv. 5-8)

- Eyewitness Testimony:
  - > Peter and the Twelve disciples saw the risen Jesus.
  - ➤ Over 500 people witnessed Him at once.
  - > James and all the apostles encountered Him.
  - ➤ Paul himself, transformed on the Damascus Road, heard and saw the risen Christ.

#### Staggering Evidence:

- Large groups of diverse witnesses over time.
- >Hostile skeptics like James and Paul attested to the resurrection.

### The Resurrection is <u>Factual</u> (vv. 1-11)

### C. Signs of Resurrection in Paul's Life (vv. 9-11)

- Paul's Transformation:
  - > From persecutor to apostle.
  - > Encounter with the risen Christ changed him.
  - God's grace saved and called him.
- Historical Bedrock:
  - > Rooted in Scripture (fulfillment of prophecy).
  - Verified by eyewitnesses.
  - > Transformed lives testify to its truth.

## The Resurrection is <u>Essential</u> (vv. 12-19)

#### Seven Consequences of No Resurrection:

#### 1. Christ Has Not Been Raised (vv. 12-13)

- Paul's logic is unyielding: Rejecting Christ's resurrection means denying the resurrection of all believers.
- As he asserts, "if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised" (v. 13).
- Christ's resurrection serves as the "first fruits," guaranteeing the future resurrection for His followers.

#### 2. Uselessness of Gospel Preaching (v. 14a)

- If Christ wasn't raised, preaching about Him becomes futile.
- Declaring a Savior who failed in His mission offers no hope.
- As Paul concisely puts it, "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain."

#### 3. Uselessness of Our Faith (v. 14b)

- Our faith hinges on Christ's resurrection.
- Without it, our hopes and promises as believers are mere wishful thinking.
- Faith in a dead Messiah is utterly useless.

#### 4. Apostles as Liars (vv. 15-16)

- If Christ remained in the tomb, the apostles would be liars.
- They testified to Christ's resurrection, which would be false.
- Their credibility rests on the reality of the risen Christ.

#### 5. Continued Bondage to Sin (v. 17)

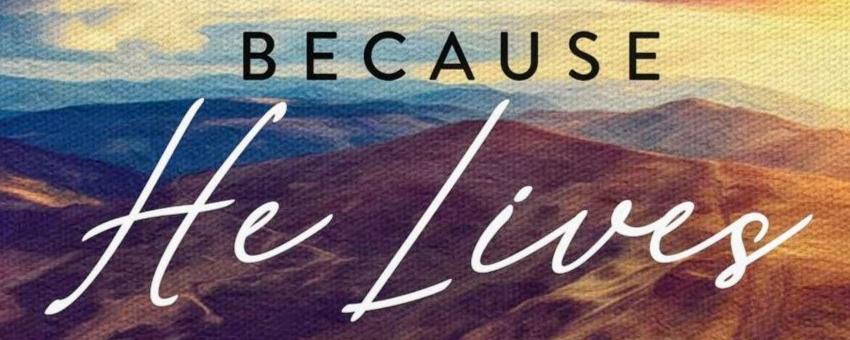
- A living Savior is necessary for rebirth & freedom from sin.
- Without Christ's resurrection, our faith remains worthless.
- Only an infinitely powerful Redeemer can remove our guilt.

- 6. Tragic Fate of Believers Who Died (v. 18)
  - Those trusting in Christ's empty tomb face a grim outcome.
  - If the resurrection is false, we perish without eternal life.
  - Their (our) hope rested on an empty promise...

#### 7. Wretchedness of Christians (v. 19)

- Not only do deceased believers lack hope, but living believers are pitiable.
- If our hope is limited to this life, we are most to be pitied.
- Sacrifices for a dead Messiah become a cruel delusion.

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow Because He lives, all fear is gone



Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living, just because He lives!"

#### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear and Learn – Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe – Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Confess the Lord – Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Repent – Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Be Baptized – Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Faithful Unto Death – Revelation 2:10

### Go and Share the Good News!

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16