

Series: 1 Corinthians

## **“Some Reasons for Believing in the Resurrection”**

(Sunday Morning August 23rd, 2026)

Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

**O.S. I Believe That One of the Greatest Threats to Christianity in Our Country Today is Multiculturalism**

- > **This Term Refers to the Idea That All Cultures are Equally Valid; That Various Lifestyles and Beliefs All Have Worth; and So, the Diversity of Each is to be Protected**
- > **On the Surface, That Sounds Reasonable, But It Leads Inevitably to Spiritual and Moral Relativism**
- > **For You See, With Multiculturalism, There is No Such Thing as Absolute Truth**
- > **According to the Multiculturalist, All Truth is Related in Some Way to Your Culture, Your Gender, or Your Race**
- > **They Also Say That No Religion is Superior to Another; No Culture is Superior to Another, and the Only Real Sin is Being Critical of Someone Else's Spiritual Views or Moral Choices (I Want to Repeat That; So, You Won't Miss It)**
- > **The Apostle Paul Encountered Multiculturalism in Athens Greece, and the Influence of It Was so Pervasive That He Had Very Few Converts**
- > **Consequently, Paul Concluded That Athens Was an Unresponsive City; and He Did Not Remain There; This Shows Us How Serious a Problem It Can Become**
- > **Paul Moved on Because He Couldn't Bring the Athenians Around to Accept the Fact That There is Only One True God**
- > **That Idea Represented the Height of Arrogance to Those Eggheads Who Spent All of Their Time Up on Mars Hill Involved in Congenial Dialogs About Religion**
- > **The Good News is That There Were a Few Converts, Not Many, Just a Few**
- > *Acts 17:34 Says “But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them”*

**Q.n = What Was the Straw That Broke the Camel's Back? What Was It That Caused the Athenians to Reject Paul and His Message?**

**Ans = Well, to Begin With, He Told All of These Intellectuals That They Were Ignorant**

- > **In Acts 17:30, Paul Said, "*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent*"**
- > **IGNORANT! I'm Sure That Was the First Bomb That Went Off in Their Minds; and Then, He Told Them That They Needed to Repent (Is He Trying to Convert Us?)**

**Ans = And Then, Paul Declared That Jesus Christ Has Been Physically Resurrected**

- > **In Acts 17:32, the Bible Says, "*Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer,...*"**
- > **The Problem is That Greek Philosophers Were Dualist; They Believed That Matter is Evil and Spirit is Good (I Explained This Earlier in Our Study of 1 Corinthians)**
- > **They Even Had a Proverb That Said, "*The Body is a Tomb. I am a Poor Soul Shackled to a Corpse*"**
- > **For the Greek, Immortality Came From Getting Rid of the Body Which They Viewed as Evil; and So, the Resurrection of the Body Was Unthinkable to Them**

**Pt = The Resurrection is a Fundamental Doctrine of Our Faith; and So, We Can't Abandon Our Belief in It for the Sake of Having a Congenial Religious Dialog**

- > **Muslims and Christians, for Example, are Not Similar to One Another as Some People Suggest, Because Muslim Don't Believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ or His Resurrection, and Both of These are Fundamental Doctrines of Our Faith**

**Q.n = And Listen to Me, are You Listening?**

- > **The Physical Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone of Our Faith, Without It, Our Entire Belief System Collapses Like a House of Cards**
- > **And That is the Point That Paul Was Making Throughout This 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Book *1 Corinthians* to These People Who Had Been Greatly Influenced by Greek Philosophy**
- > **And So, With This in Mind, I Have Divided This Sermon Into Three Parts**

---

## **I. We Have Personal Reasons for Believing in the Resurrection**

**1) The Resurrection is a Vital Part of the Gospel**

-> In *Verses 3 and 4*, We Find One of the Most Concise Descriptions of the Gospel in All of Scripture

-> And Please Notice That Paul Tells Us That These Truths are “*of first importance*”

Q.n = Why are These Truths “*of first importance*” or “*of primary importance*?”

Ans = Because This is What a Person Must Believe in Order to be Saved (Read vs 3-4)

-> In Order to be Saved, Paul Says That a Person Must Believe the Gospel Which Has Three Essential Elements

. vs 3 Says “*Christ Died*” - You Must Believe This in Order to be Saved  
(This Includes the Fact That He Died for an Important Reason – Atonement)

. vs 4 Says “*He was Buried*” - You Must Believe This in Order to be Saved

. vs 4 Says “*He was Raised*” - You Must Believe This in Order to be Saved

-> The Point Paul Was Making Was This; He Was Saying, in Essence, “*If You Deny the Physical Resurrection of Jesus Christ, You are Denying Yourself*”

-> “*For You See, I Know That You are Christians*” Paul Was Saying; “*and in Order to Become a Christian, You Had to Believe in the Physical Resurrection of Jesus*”

-> In Fact, I Want You to Notice How Paul Points Out in *Verse 1* That They Had Received the Gospel (Past Tense) and in *Verse 2*, He Acknowledges the Fact That He Believes That They are Saved; He Said, “*...by which also you are saved*”

Pt = A Belief in the Physical Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a Vital Part of the Gospel, and It is an Absolutely Essential Element of Our Salvation

Q.n = *Romans 10:9*, for Example, Says What?

Ans = Most of Us Should Know It; It Says, “*... if you (will) confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart (What?) THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, you will be saved*”

---

T.S. 1) The Resurrection is a Vital Part of the Gospel

---

2) The Gospel Will Result in Changed Lives

vs 2 (*Read*)

-> This Phrase “*if you hold fast*” Does Not Imply That a Christian Can Lose Their

## Salvation as Some People Suggest That It Does

- > Paul is Actually Teaching the Exact Opposite; He is Saying That the Fact That They Were *“Holding Fast”* to the Gospel is *“Living Proof”* of the Fact That They Were Genuinely Saved
- > By the Way, Paul Made It Abundantly Clear in *Romans 8:38-39* That It is God’s Love That Holds Us Not Vis Versa; in These Verses, Paul Said,  
  
*“38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”*
- > And Listen, That Little Preposition *“OF”* Makes All of the Difference in the World
- > Because It Tells Us That It is Not Our Love for God That Keeps Us Saved, It is His Love for Us, and His Love is Vastly Superior to Ours
- > The Bible Also Teaches That if Someone *“Apostacizes”*, if Someone *“Falls Away”*, This Simply Proves That They Were Never Saved in the First Place
- > In *1 John 2:19*, the Apostle John Said This; Listen Carefully, He Said, *“They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us”*
- > Now, if You Will Also Read *Verse 2* of This Chapter Very Carefully, You Will Notice That Paul Said Essentially the Same Thing That the Apostle John Said
- > He Said That, if They Did Not Hold Fast to Their Belief in the Resurrection, Their Faith Would be Proven to Have Been in Vain
- > He Said That They Had *“believed”* - Past Tense - *“in vain,”* and the Word *“Vain”* Literally Means *“Empty”* or *“Useless”* or *“Not Valid”*

St = Now, One Fact That No Skeptic Can Deny is the Fact That Countless Numbers of Lives Have Been Changed by the Power That Comes From Embracing the Gospel

- > And in *Romans 6*, Paul Explained That It is This Same Power That Raised Jesus From the Grave That Enables Us to Live Our Lives for the Glory of God

- > This is What He Said in *Rom 6:4*; He Said, “*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too* (Listen to This) *might walk in newness of life*”
  - > This Means That, as Soon as Someone Places Their Faith in Jesus Christ, They Receive “*Power for Living*,” and This is Nothing Less Than “*Resurrection Power*”
  - > The Sad Thing, of Course, is That a Lot of People Get This Reversed; They Think That They Have to Clean Up Their Act Before They Can be Saved
  - > But Listen, It is Impossible for a Person to Change Themselves w/o the Resurrection Power That God Provides Us With After We Have Received Jesus Christ as Our Personal Lord and Savior (Elaborate = The Holy Spirit Comes to Abide in Us)
- 

**Q.n = Have You Ever Read or Heard Someone Describe the Testimony of John Newton?**

- > John Newton is the Man Who Wrote the Most Beloved Christian Hymn of All Time “*Amazing Grace*”, and He Had a Dramatic Conversion (Elaborate = Infidel and a Drunkard, Harpooned, a Slave to a Slave Trader, Caught in a Terrible Storm)
- > The Epitaph on John Newton’s Tombstone Says This; It Says, “*John Newton, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa: was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the faith he had labored long to destroy. Near sixteen years at Olney in Bucks; and twenty-seven years in this church*”
- > This Means That, in Addition to Writing Many Hymns Including “*Amazing Grace*”, John Newton Was a Preacher of the Gospel for Forty-Three Years

**Pt = The Fact That This Same Kind of Dramatic Transformation Has Taken Place in the Lives of Countless Others Proves That Resurrection Power is Available to Anyone Who Will Place Their Faith and Trust in Jesus Christ**

---

**T.S. I. We Have Personal Reasons for Believing in the Resurrection**

---

## **II. We Have Prophetic Reasons for Believing in the Resurrection**

- > I Want You to Look at *Verse 3 and 4* Again, and This Time I Want You to Notice That the Phrase “*According to the Scriptures*” Appears Twice for Emphasis
- > Paul Uses That Phrase to Remind Us of the Fact That the Resurrection Was Not Some New Idea That Was Dreamed Up by Jesus or His Disciples

## 1) Jesus' Resurrection Was Predicted in the Old Testament

- > Abraham, for Example, Was Told to Sacrifice His Son Isaac, But God Provided a Ram
  - > And All of This Was a Symbol of Jesus, His Virtuous Life, His Vicarious Death, and His Victorious Resurrection
  - > In Fact, We are Told in *Hebrews 11:19* That This Event Caused Abraham to Muse About the Possibility of God Being Able to Raise Men From Dead
  - > Jesus Himself Said That Jonah Was a Symbol of His Death, Burial and Resurrection
  - > In *Matthew 12:40*, Jesus Said, *"for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"*
  - > In *Acts 2:27*, Peter Quoted *Psalms 16* Which Says *"...YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY..."*
  - > And by Doing So, Peter Proved That Jesus' Resurrection Was Predicted in the Old Testament
  - > His Resurrection Was Predicted in the O. T. and so Was Ours; in *Job 19:25-26*, We Find Just One of Several Examples, and Job Said This; He Said, *"25 As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. 26 'Even after my skin is destroyed, (Listen) yet from my flesh I shall see God'"*
  - > That is Referring to a Physical Resurrection, and the Bible Teaches That Every Believer in Christ Will be Physically Resurrected
  - > And It Also Teaches That We Will Have a Resurrection Body Similar to Our Lord's
- 

T.S. 1) Jesus' Resurrection Was Predicted in the Old Testament

## 2) Jesus' Resurrection Was Predicted in the New Testament

- > Just After Jesus Cleansed the Temple and Ran the Money Changers Out, He Turned to the Jewish Leaders, and He Said This; He Said, *"... 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. '" (John 2:19)*
- > They Thought He Was Saying This About the Temple He Had Just Driven Them Out of, But John Tells Us That He Was Actually Referring to His Own Body
- > In *Matthew 20:18-19*, Jesus Predicted, Not Only His Resurrection, But Even the Fact

### That He Would be Mocked and Scourged and Crucified

- > He Said to His Disciples *“18 Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up”*
  - > If We Have No Resurrection, We Cannot Claim That Jesus is the Son of God, Because *Romans 1:4* Says That Jesus Was *“...declared the Son of God with power BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD,...”*
  - > If We Have No Resurrection, We Have No Atonement, Because It is the Resurrection That Proves That Jesus Atonement Was Accepted
  - > *Rom 4:25 “He (Referring to Jesus) ... was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification”*
  - > And of Course, if We Have no Resurrection, We Have to Conclude That Jesus Christ is a Liar
  - > Because Jesus Told His Disciples That He Would Have to Suffer and be Killed by *“the elders and chief priests and scribes,”* and That He Would Rise Again Three Days Later
  - > So, if the Resurrection Had Not Occurred, We Would Have no Other Choice Than to Conclude That Jesus Himself Lied to Us
  - > And if We Have no Resurrection, Paul Tells Us in This Chapter That We are of All Men the Most to be Pitied (*Read vs 19*)
- 

T.S. I. We Have Personal Reasons for Believing in the Resurrection

II. We Have Prophetic Reasons for Believing in the Resurrection

### III. We Have Provable Reasons for Believing in the Resurrection

*vs 5-8 (Read)*

- > Paul is Just Pointing Out That We Have Ample Proof in the Form of Numerous Eyewitnesses to the Fact That Jesus Was Resurrected

#### 1) Jesus Appeared to Cephas

- > Now, the Word *“Cephas”* is Aramaic for *“Peter”* - *“Petros”* - or *“Rock”*

- > The Fact That His Name Appears in Aramaic is Significant, Because It is One of Many Things That Identifies This Passage as Part of an Early Creed
- > We are Also Told That It Was “*Received*” or “*Delivered*,” and the Fact That It Mentions “*The Twelve*” Reveals That This is Very Old
- > In Fact, Some Say That This is a Creed That Dates Back to Within Eight Years of the Resurrection
- > Finally, We are Told in *Gal 1:18-19* That Paul Verified All of These Facts in Jerusalem About Three Years After His Conversion
- > And in That Passage, the Greek Word “*Histereo*” Appears Which Means That Paul Very Carefully Investigated All of These Things

Pt = Listen, Because of These Textual Facts, Even Liberal Textual Critics Have to Admit That This Passage of Scripture is Accurate and Authoritative

---

#### T.S. 1) Jesus Appeared to Cephas

---

#### 2) Jesus Appeared to the Twelve

- > Of Course, There Were Only Eleven Now Since Judas Had Committed Suicide, But This Was Their Title
- > And So, We Have an Aggregate of Quality Witnesses, and We Know That This Happened at Least Once in the Upper Room Which is When Thomas Was Allowed to Touch Jesus’ Resurrected Body (*John 20:26-28*)

#### 3) Jesus Appeared to Five Hundred

- > So, We Not Only Have Quality; We Also Have Quantity, and This Most Likely Occurred in Galilee
- > In Fact, Many Scholars Believe That This Was When Jesus Presented the Great Commission (*Matthew 28:16-20*)

#### 4) Jesus Appeared to Unlikely People

- a. James the Half Brother of Jesus

-> At One Time, James Was a Skeptic; We Know This, Because *John 7:5* Says  
“For not even His brothers were believing in Him”

-> By the Way, This is Why I Don’t Agree With the Catholic Belief in the Perpetual  
Virginity of Mary

-> Because the Bible Tells Us That Mary Had Other Children; One of Them  
Was Named James, and James Saw Jesus After His Resurrection

**b. Paul, the Apostle Himself**

-> Someone Could Argue and Say That the Twelve Had a Vested Interest in Carrying  
Out a Hoax About a Resurrection

-> But James Was a Skeptic and We are Told in *Acts 9:1-2* That Paul Was an Active  
Antagonist to the Faith

**SO, NOW CONSIDER THIS**

-> If the Resurrection Was a Fabrication, or a Hoax, as Some People Suggest,  
It Might Have Been Possible to Get Two or Three People to Corroborate This  
Story

**Q.n = But How Likely is It That Eleven People of High Moral Character Would  
Maintain a Lie and Seal It With Their Martyrdom?**

**Q.n = And How Likely is It That Five Hundred People Would Agree to Maintain  
a Conspiracy of This Nature?**

**Q.n = And How Likely is It That You Could Find Two More People Who Had No Vested  
Interest at All to Promote This as Well?**

**Q.n = Moreover, Listen to Me Now, are You Listening?**

-> Moreover, It is Often Overlooked That Jesus Remained on the Earth After His  
Resurrection, and He Appeared to Many Over the Course of Forty Days (*Acts 1:3*)

---

**T.S. These Facts, of Course, do Not Prevent Infidels From Trying to Disprove the Resurrection,  
and There are Several Alternative Theories That Have Been Presented Over  
the Past Two Thousand Years (I’m Going to Describe Just Four of Them)**

**a. The Stolen Body Theory**

-> This One is Found in the Bible; It is Found in *Matt 28:11-15* (For the Sake of Time..)

**-> Now, There are Two Things That No One in Biblical Times Ever Disputed**

**i. First, They Never Disputed the Fact That Jesus Died**

**-> We Know That He Died, Because We are Told in *John 19:34* That a Roman Soldier Pierced His Heart With a Spear, and That Water and Blood Came Out** (Elaborate – Water and Blood Around the Pericardial Sack Separate at Death)

**-> And Jesus' Body Was Handled by His Disciples After His Death, So, We Can be Sure That Any Signs of Life Would Have Been Noticed**

**ii. Second, They Never Disputed the Fact That Jesus Was Buried**

**-> We are Even Told in *Matt 27:65-66* That Some Roman Guards Were Given the Task of Guarding the Tomb Where Jesus Was Buried**

**-> So, This Leaves Only Two Possibilities for the Disappearance of Jesus' Body; One That He Was Resurrected or Two That His Body Was Stolen**

**-> If Jesus' Body Was Stolen, This Would Mean That We Have a Crime, and Every Crime Involves Two Things a Motive and an Opportunity**

**\* The Pharisees Could Have Had an Opportunity, Because They Had Some Degree of Influence With the Roman Authorities**

**-> But They Had Only One Possible Motive for Stealing Jesus' Body, Only One, and That Would Have Been to Produce It as Proof of Jesus' Death**

**\* The Disciples Would Have Had Only One Motive for Stealing Jesus' Body, and That Would Have Been to Preserve and Protect Jesus' Reputation**

**-> But the Disciples Did Not Have an Opportunity Because the Jews Had Asked for Some Roman Guards to Watch the Tomb**

**-> Now, on the Surface This Lie That Was Perpetuated by the Jews Seems Plausible; But Upon Serious Investigation, It Can be Proven to be Absolutely Impossible**

**...Because for One, Roman Military Records Show That, if a Roman Soldier Fell Asleep on Guard, He Would Have Been Put to Death** (So, It is Very Unlikely That This Would Have Happened)

**...in Addition to This, a Roman Guard Could Include as Many as Sixty Men; and So, They Would All Have Had to Have Fallen Asleep Simultaneously**

**...Moreover, This Was a Huge Stone Requiring as Many as Seven Men to Move (Not Lift), and This Activity Would Have Awakened the Guards**

**-> By the Way, in *Matthew 28:2*, We are Told That an Earthquake Occurred, and That an Angel Rolled the Stone Away and Sat on It**

**-> And the Greek Word There Literally Means “*to Lift Up and Away*” Which Tells Us That This Huge Stone Was no Longer Even Close to the Entrance; It Had Been Thrown Some Distance From It**

**Q.n = So, What are the Odds of Sixty Roman Soldiers, Under the Threat of Death, Sleeping Through an Earthquake? And of Them Continuing to Doze While These Disciples Moved the Stone Some Distance Away From the Tomb?**

**...Finally, and This is the Clincher, if All of the Roman Soldiers Were Asleep, How Could They Have Known That the Disciples Were the Ones Who Had Stolen Jesus’ Body?**

**...And Just for Good Measure, Let Me Add This, These Men, as I Stated Earlier, Were Willing to Die, and Most of Them Did Die for Their Belief in the Resurrection**

**... Some Men Will Die for Their Convictions as These Men Died, But No One Besides a Lunatic Would Die to Preserve a Lie**

#### **b. The Swoon Theory**

**-> This Theory Suggests That Jesus Did Not Actually Die on the Cross; He Only Swooned; He Went Into a Coma and Was Later Revived**

**-> This Theory Was First Invented by Some Liberal Scholars Back in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and It Has Resurfaced Many Times (Is It Plausible? No)**

---

**III: Every Time I Think About “*The Swoon Theory*,” I am Reminded of a Man Who Wrote a Letter to the Editor of a Religious Newspaper That Said This**

**“*Dear Editor***

***Our Preacher said on Easter that Jesus just swooned on the cross, and that the disciples nursed him back to health. What do you think?***

***Sincerely, Mr Jones”***

**-> The Editor Wrote Back, and I Love His Response; He Said,**

*“Dear Brother Jones*

*Take your Preacher outside and beat him with a cat of nine tails with 39 strokes. Nail him to a cross. Hang him in the sun for six hours. Run a spear through his heart. Embalm Him. Wrap him up like a mummy. Put him in an airtight tomb for 72 hours, and you see what happens.*

*Sincerely, the Editor”*

---

**c. The Hallucination Theory**

**Q.n = Can Anyone Actually Believe That Over 500 Otherwise Normal People All Had the Same Hallucination? And They Had This Hallucination for a Period 40 Days?**

**d. The Evaporation Theory**

-> **This One is My Favorites, Because It is so Stupid** (Like the Ark Battery Theory)

-> **A Man by the Name of G.D. Yarnold Wrote a Book Entitled “Risen Indeed” in Which He Suggested That Jesus’ Body Simply Evaporated Into Gases**

-> **Of Course, That is Stupid, and All of These Alternative Theories are Stupid, Because the Evidence for Jesus’ Physical Resurrection is Overwhelming**

**Invitation:**

-> **The Bible Teaches That Jesus Was Resurrected, and This Was a Physical Bodily Resurrection; This is a Non-Negotiable Fundamental Doctrine of Our Faith**

-> **The Bible Also Teaches That Every Believer in Christ Will be Resurrected, and This Too Will be a Physical Bodily Resurrection**

-> **In 1 Cor 6:14, Paul Said, “Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power”** (Can I Get an Amen This Morning?)

-> **Another Biblical Fact, That Comes as a Surprise to Many People is That Everyone Will be Resurrected, and Everyone Will Experience a Physical Bodily Resurrection**

-> **The Body That the Non-Christian Will Receive, However, Will be a Body That Will Have to Endure Eternal Punishment**

-> **In Dan 12:2, the Bible Says, “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”**

-> In John 5:28-29, Jesus Himself Said, *“28 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”*

-> And in Rev 20:13, the Bible Says *“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds”*

-> *“Hades”*, by the Way, is Not the Same as *“Hell”*; *“Hades”* is a Place of Temporary Torment for Those Who Will Ultimately Experience Eternal Torment in Hell

-> And These Will be Physically Resurrected so That They Can be Judged at the Great White Throne Judgment on the Basis of Their Deeds and Appropriately Condemned

Pt = We are All Going to be Resurrected; We are All Going to Experience a Physical Bodily Resurrection, But This is Not Good News for Everyone

-> This is Only Good News for Those Who Have Accepted the Gospel, and This is Only Good News for Those Who Have Received Jesus Christ as Their Personal Lord and Savior

-> And if You Have Not Yet Done So, That is What This Time of Invitation is All About