

RESURRECTION PROOF

EASTER SUNDAY MESSAGE – MARCH 23, 2008

Tabernacle of Praise – PASTOR G. RICHARDSON

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Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

on such the second death hath no power; which is the lake of fire, [Rev 20:14](#) the sense is, they shall escape everlasting burnings, the fire of hell, the torment and misery of the wicked; they shall be delivered from wrath to come;

1Co 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1 Corinthians chapter 15

1. Corinth was a Greek city, and the Greeks did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. When Paul preached at Athens and declared the fact of Christ's resurrection, some of his listeners actually laughed at him.

Act 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*.

2. **Most Greek philosophers** considered the human body a prison, and they welcomed death as deliverance from bondage.
3. **This skeptical attitude** had somehow invaded the church and Paul had to face it head-on. The truth of the resurrection had doctrinal and practical implications for life that were too important to ignore.
4. Paul dealt with the subject by answering four basic questions.

FOUR BASIC QUESTIONS

1. **Are the Dead Raised?** (1 Cor. 15:1-19) He presented three proofs to assure his readers that Jesus Christ indeed had been raised from the dead.

2. **Proof #1-Their Salvation:**

1Co 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1Co 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

- a. Paul had come to Corinth and preached the Gospel, and their faith and obedience transformed their lives. Christ living in them! The power of God unto salvation.
- b. The integral part of the Gospel message was the fact of Christ's Resurrection. **After all, a dead saviour cannot save anybody.**
- c. The transformation of the Word of God, by which they were standing firm, was a solid proof their faith was genuine and not empty.

3. **Proof #2 The Old Testament Scripture:**

1Co 15:3 For I delivered unto you **first of all** that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures;**

1Co 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures:

- a. **First of All means:** "Of first importance."
- b. "**Christ Died...He was buried...He rose again...He was seen**" are the basic historical facts on which the Gospel stands.
- c. "**According to the Scriptures**" Paul was referring to the Old Testament Scriptures. Much of the sacrificial system in the O.T. pointed to the sacrifice of Christ as our substitute and Saviour. Such

as the annual Day of Atonement (Lev. 16) and prophecies, **like Isaiah chapter 53.**

Luk 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

Luk 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures,

Luk 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

Joh 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Three Days:

Mat 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

1. **Proof #3 Christ was seen by witnesses:**

1Co 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

1Co 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

1Co 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

1Co 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

EVERY MAN IN HIS ORDER

1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

1Co 15:21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1Co 15:23 **But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**
1Co 15:24 ***Then cometh the end...***”

1. The word Order in (1 Cor. 15:23) Originally referred to military rank. God has an order, or a sequence in the resurrection.
2. Trees have different times or orders of budding. For example the Almond tree verses Crate myrtle tree, each have different times of putting forth leaves. They are about a month and a half difference in blooming.
3. Christ is the frirstfruits; then afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming (Rapture).

RAPTURE

1Co 15:51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

1Co 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

1Co 15:55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

1Co 15:56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

1Co 15:57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.