

**The Reality and Reason for the Resurrection  
Holy History or A Horrible Hoax?  
Corinthians 15:1-34**

**Intro** The Resurrection- From the standpoint of apologetics for Christian theology, belief in Jesus Christ as the son of God stands or falls with the question of His bodily resurrection.

The certainty and necessity of the bodily resurrection for the Christian is its inseparable link to the resurrection of Christ:  
Historically, Logically, Theologically and Experimentally.

Question-What connection does this section have with Spiritual gifts of ch. 12-14?  
(The next structural division is not until 16:1 “Now concerning” *peri de*)

Answer- Paul desires prophecy and order 14:39-40. Hence Paul presents a word of prophecy and gives it in a very orderly presentation to educate all the Corinthians.

Question- Why does Paul go give so much information on the resurrection?

Answer- The Corinthians as well as all people of the Greco/Roman world had a common philosophical understanding concerning death. (Mythical, Cyclical) Since the Corinthians brought socially and theologically heretical teaching into the church Paul needed to correct their wrong thinking with true doctrine as he did with other topics.

**Historically**- the bodily resurrection of Christ is essential to the gospel message which the Corinthians had believed. 15:1-11

- A. The Apostolic gospel which Paul preached was embraced by the Corinthians vs:1-2  
“If Hold fast” first class since assume you will. Hold onto the resurrection- it is the key to salvation

“Vain”- *εικη* the issue is not a doubt if they believed but a question of the reality of the resurrection

See --Similar concept 15:10,14, 58 *κενος*  
Paul preached to Corinth in AD 50 during second mission trip. Stayed with Aquilla and Pricilla Acts 18:1-7 stayed 18 months **I Cor 2:2-3**

- B. The Primary content of this gospel is the death and resurrection of Christ which is historically authenticated by many reliable eyewitnesses including Paul, vs: 3-10
1. Structural Issue- Similar to I Thess 4:14 died and rose  
The grammatical construction seems to limit the basic message.

Christ died for our sins	1) First proposition
according to the Scriptures	1a) Scriptural proof
and was buried	1b) Physical proof
He arose	2) Second proposition
according to the Scriptures	2a) Scriptural proof
and was seen	2b) Physical proof

- a. Christ Died for sin (Theological) Need validation  
     Buried ( Historical -Secular)  
     According to scripture ( Scriptural- Sacred)  
     (According to scripture Isa 53, I Cor 11:23)

Substitutionary atonement Day of Atonement Yom Kipper Lev 16,  
Isa 53 John 1 :29 Lamb of God 2 Cor 5:21

Christ Buried, Actual death Validation

- b. Raised- (Theological)  
     Seen- (Historical- Secular)  
     According to the scripture (Scriptural- Sacred)

(Not clear what scripture but- Psalm 16:9-11 LXX no corruption so he must be raised. Psalm 110:1 Maybe Jonah- sign of Jonah three days in whale = death then resurrection

NB- Social- Heretical Theological Context- Two types of heresies-  
     Jesus not God. (dynamic monarchism) No, He is- He is risen  
     Jesus not real man (Docetisim)- No, He is real and dies I Jo 1

- c. Validation of Truth :5-10 - Seen by three groups

NB- False view of resurrection  
     1. Stolen Body Theory ( Jews? or Romans? Nonsense)  
     2. Swoon Theory ( Jesus did not die. Revived in tomb? Nonsense)  
     3. Mass Psychotic Theory (Wishful thinking turned into mass hypnosis or hysteria? Nonsense)

- 2. **Theological Issues** What is the content of the “gospel”- Good news?  
     a. Problem-Does the presentation of the gospel need to include the resurrection?  
         1. Yes- I Cor 15:3-5

2. No- John 3:16, 5:24, do not include this.  
(John Written after 70-90AD Acts 16:31,Rom 3-4)

b. Solution

-The basis of the provision for eternal life is the death and resurrection of Jesus the God / Man. No salvation apart from the finished work of Christ. Hence the resurrection is essential for eternal life. Acts 4:12, John 14:6 John 11:25 I am the resurrection

-The essence of the salvation message is the need to have faith in Christ which allows you to receive eternal life.

-The question is, How much theology does this faith in Christ need to include? Faith that He is God and part of the trinity, a sinless man, He is coming back to rapture the church?  
How much or how little do we need to know to receive Christ?

-The Conclusion- What must I do to be saved? Acts 16

I am to believe that – through His cross and resurrection- Jesus Christ, God’s son, gives me eternal life and resurrection instead of the death sentence that I deserve as a sinner. The Apostle John sees the cross and resurrection as a reason that people should believe that Jesus Christ gives believers eternal life. John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24, 6:40

**GBC Salvation**

“This new relationship with God is a free gift, by grace, and it is offered to all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. It cannot be achieved by good works, nor is it given according to race, status, or ability—salvation is through faith alone and by grace alone in Jesus’ death and resurrection.”

C. The Resurrection centered gospel was being preached by all the apostles and it was believed by the Corinthians vs:11

**Truth for Today (Rom. 1:1-4, 16)**

Do not be ashamed of the Gospel. Share it

Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we too can live die and rise from the dead to have eternal life. Share it this week!