

Christ Resurrection Is True

“¹Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.” (1 Corinthians 15: 1-13)

Apostle Paul is sending an encouraging letter to the church that he planted at Corinth. He is reminding them about the truth that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. His message to the Church was in regard to the gospel, the good news that he preached to them, and on which they took their stand. He is telling the church that by this gospel there is salvation. The gospel message is in this, ***“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)*** Christ died for us and paid the prize for our sins on the cross. His death had redeemed us and delivered from the bondage of sins and death.

But we must be aware that Christ is the Word of God, therefore when we receive Christ we are receiving and accepting the Word of God into our lives. And that what Paul was telling to the Church, ***“By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.”*** Therefore brethren you need to hold firmly to the Word of God and the teaching of Jesus, because on the Day of Judgment, the judgment will be based on the Word of God that you had received, ***“Otherwise, you have believed in vain.”*** Our faith should be accompanied by actions and deeds, otherwise would be of no value to us.

Paul was a faithful servant because he had passed to the church what he had received from the Word of God as we can read here, ***“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance.”*** We ought to do the same; the good news that we received from the Lord and from His Word we pass it to those who are under our care to encourage them to get revived with the message of the Lord.

Paul confirmed to the Church the message of the resurrection of the Lord from the dead. He was telling them if Christ did not rise from the dead then there is no use of preaching at all. The problem of the Church at Corinth they were doubting the resurrection of the death, and if there is no resurrection then our Lord is still dead, then there is no hope for us at all. And if Christ did not rise from the dead then no use to go and preach the gospel to others. As we read what Paul wrote to them we can grasp the dilemma that was going on that time there; ***“¹²But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.” (1 Corinthians 15:12-19)***

Paul he is telling to the church that Christ truly rose from the dead as he wrote, ***“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:21)*** And he mentioned to them the evidences of Christ resurrection from the dead. The followings are proves, facts and evidences about Christ resurrection to encourage us to go on and serve God faithfully by preaching Christ and teaching His Word to others and with confidence:-

1- Christ resurrection is Scriptural: “That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” Old and New Testaments Scriptures speaks about Christ dead and resurrection (Read these Scriptures in your bible: Isaiah 53; Psalm 16:10; Psalm 22:11-18; Matthew 16:20-22; 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-33; Luke 18:31-32) We can see clearly from these Scriptures that even Jesus Himself spoke about His death and His resurrection from the dead.

2- Christ after His resurrection appeared to many people: “He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.” And that is why they got the courage, the reason and the boldness to preach the message to the big crowd of the Jew who came to Jerusalem to celebrate the day of Pentecost. Peter preached in the day of Pentecost his first sermon to a big crowd after fifty days of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Peter had met the risen Lord after His resurrection; he was empowered with the Holy Spirit to preach the message, and was supported by the presence of empty grave of Jesus in Jerusalem. Apostle Peter told the crowd, ***“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.” (Acts 2:32)*** At that moment no one argued with Peter because the evidence of the empty tomb of Jesus was well known and valid fact and prove of Jesus resurrection.

3- Christ appeared to more than five hundred of the brother: “After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.” Paul telling the church that most of those brothers whom Jesus appeared they are still alive; in other Word he is telling them you can go and ask them and they will tell and describe to you how Christ appeared to them. Paul proceed more telling the Church, ***“Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,”*** Whom Christ commissioned to go and preach the Gospel to the nations.

4- Christ appeared to Apostle Paul: “And last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.” Paul told the church that the reason for Him to move to Corinth and to other places and preached the gospel and make disciples because Christ Himself appeared to him and changed his life. Paul was telling the Church that he would have no reason and no message to bring to them and preach the Word and plant God’s Church at Corinth if the Resurrected Christ did not appeared to him and changed him. Christ changed Paul life from criminal and persecutor of the Church to a builder of God’s church, and this is a very valid evidence of Christ resurrection who is still alive and changing people.

My Dear and Beloved: And last of all he appeared to me also. If it not the risen Lord appeared to me and revealed Himself to me and changed totally my life, I would not bring to you this message. Christ resurrection is real. ***“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11)*** Therefore be refreshed and be encouraged and take heart and let your hope be restored as you receive the message and go forward with God’s power and the Holy Spirit to bring the message further to others who have no hope as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for Your Word that restored my hope and my trust in you. Help me Lord to carry the message to a further point and to encourage the downcast with Your Word and Your gospel. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.