

THE RESURRECTION: HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

This is possibly the strangest Easter that any of us have ever celebrated. But our circumstances do not change the fact that on this day we celebrate the greatest event in all of history, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The tomb is empty, and the Lord of Glory is risen! Hallelujah!

These are the two facts that we celebrate on Easter morning, we have heard Luke's record of this event, but why is the empty tomb and the resurrection so important? What do they mean to us? How important is it? We are going to explore those questions this morning.

I. THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)

- a. Paul begins this passage to the church in Corinth by stating that he wants to remind them of the _____ which he had shared with them.
- b. Paul had spent two years in Corinth teaching the Corinthians the Gospel and all that had been _____ to him by God, the Holy Spirit.

II. THE GOSPEL EXPLAINED (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

- a. Paul then goes on to remind his readers what the Gospel was that he _____ to them.
- b. 1. "...that Christ _____ for our sins according to the Scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15:3b, NASB95) (Isaiah 53:4-6)
- c. 2. "...and that He was _____..." (1 Corinthians 15:4a, NASB95) (Isaiah 53:9; Mark 15:42-45)
- d. 3. "...and that He was _____ on the third day according to the Scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15:4b, NASB95) (1 Corinthians 15:17)
- e. My question at the beginning of this message was _____ is the resurrection and the empty tomb important to us? (Psalm 16:9-10; Isaiah 53:10-11)

- f. Jesus many times during His earthly ministry predicted His resurrection from the dead understanding that without it there would be no _____.

III. THE EYE-WITNESS PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

(1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

- a. The proof of the empty tomb and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ are the _____, or those who saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead.
- b. Paul begins with the Apostle _____ whom he calls Cephas, the Aramaic rendering of Peter. (Luke 24:34)
- c. Then Paul writes that Jesus appeared to the twelve _____ and this was more than once, but at least five times that we have recorded in Scripture. (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-51; John 20:24-29; 21:1-25)
- d. Then Paul speaks of our risen Lord appearing to more than _____ at the same time, possibly just before He ascended back into heaven.
- e. Then Jesus appeared to _____, the Lord's half-brother, the son of Mary and Joseph.
- f. Then Paul says that He appeared to all the _____.
(Acts 1:4-10)
- g. Finally, Paul says that he too was an _____ to the resurrected and glorified Lord Jesus Christ.
- h. This is Paul's proof of the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

Why is the resurrection important for us today? It is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that makes forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God and justification possible. If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, there would be no salvation. His resurrection is the proof that Jesus was who He claimed to be and the evidence that sin is paid for in full and death is conquered. It is the guarantee of our future resurrection from the dead and our future glorification.