

“The Resurrection of Christ—and of Christians”

1 Corinthians 15:3-23

THE TESTIMONY / PERSONAL EXPERIENCE ARGUMENT FOR THE RESURRECTION. v.3-11

1. God’s testimony of Jesus’ resurrection—according to the Scriptures. v.3-4

- In accordance with the Scriptures, Christ died for our sins. v.3
–“...in accordance with the Scriptures...” = the Old Testament. (E.g., Isaiah 53:4-6, 10)

→ **Myth #1:** “Jesus Christ did not die for our sins.”

- In accordance with the Scriptures, Christ was buried and raised on the third day. v.4 (E.g., Psalm 16:9-10)

2. Eyewitness testimony of Jesus’ resurrection. v.5-7

- v.5: After the resurrection Jesus appeared to Cephas (aka. Peter), then to the 12 disciples.
- v.6: After the resurrection Jesus appeared to more than 500 witnesses.
- v.7: After the resurrection Jesus appeared to James, then to all the apostles again.

3. Paul’s testimony of Jesus’ resurrection. v.8

- Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus. Acts 9:1-22

THE SPIRITUAL / RATIONAL ARGUMENT FOR THE RESURRECTION. v.12-20

→ **Myth #2:** “There is no resurrection from the dead.” (I.e., Life ends at the grave.)

If Christ has NOT been raised...

If Christ HAS been raised...

1. v.14: Preaching God’s Word is in vain (powerless).

→ **Preaching God’s Word has power.**

2. v.14: Our faith is in vain (futile, powerless).

→ **Your faith has power.**

3. v.15: We are misrepresenting God’s testimony.

→ **We are representing God’s testimony.**

4. v.17: You are still in your sins.

→ **You are not still in your sins.**

5. v.18: Believers who have died are not in heaven.

→ **Believers who have died are in heaven.**

→ Paul’s summary: v.20: “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead...”

THE NECESSITY OF FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST TO BE SAVED FROM SIN AND DEATH. v.21-22

→ **Myth #3:** “Everyone who dies goes to heaven.” (I.e., ‘Universalism’)

1. v.21: Death entered the world through a man; Resurrection entered the world through a man.

2. Death came to everyone born into Adam (everyone). v.22a

- Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

3. Life comes to everyone born into Jesus Christ. v.22b

- Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.