

INTRODUCTION

- * There are days which have changed the course of nations and even the course of world history.
- * But today, we remember and celebrate the day ... and specifically the event, that changes the course of eternity for those who will receive the truth!
- * Generally, the validity of an event is established based upon the testimony of two or three witnesses.
- * Much of history that we know and discuss is based upon the testimony of single individuals ... for example: Polybius (200-120 BC) was a Greek historian who wrote regarding the Punic Wars of Rome and claimed to be an eye-witness of the destruction of Carthage. His testimony is not doubted.
- * What, then would be the significance of an event that had over 500 eye-witnesses and four distinct accounts written regarding it? Why would "Scholars" seek to discredit every account of it?
- * First, let's consider the implications of the resurrection ... and then consider the proof!

INSTRUCTION

I. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

A. If Christ IS NOT Risen ...

1. YOUR FAITH IS IN VAIN (v. 14; cf. Romans 10:9)
2. YOU ARE STILL IN SIN (v. 17; cf. Hebrews 9:27-28)

B. If Christ IS Risen ...

1. EVERY INDIVIDUAL WILL LIVE ETERNALLY! (v. 20-22; cf. Luke 20:37)
2. EVERY INDIVIDUAL WILL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF GOD (cf. Revelation 20:12-15; John 3:16-18; 5:24; 17:3)

II. THE PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

A. The Testimony of Paul (v. 5-8; cf. Acts 9:1-22)

B. The Testimony of Matthew (cf. Matthew 28:1-20)

C. The Testimony of Mark (cf. Mark 16:1-20)

D. The Testimony of Luke (cf. Luke 24:1-53)

E. The Testimony of John (cf. John 20:1-29)

F. The Testimony of Transformed Lives (cf. Jn 20:19-20; Acts 2; 4:8-13)

1 Corinthians 15:1-26 ¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, ⁴ and that **He was buried**, and that **He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures**, ⁵ and that **He was seen by Cephas**, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. ¹¹ Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹² Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁴ And if **Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty**. ¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. ¹⁶ For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if **Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!** ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. ²⁰ **But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.** ²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even **so in Christ all shall be made alive.** ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW MUCH PROOF DO YOU NEED TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD?
- * IF YOU "BELIEVE" ... HOW HAS IT CHANGED YOUR LIFE?
- * IF YOU HAVE NEVER ACCEPTED THE PAYMENT FOR YOUR SINS THAT JESUS HAS MADE FOR YOU THROUGH HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION ... DO SO TODAY!

AND EXPERIENCE THE JOY THAT THOSE WHO KNOW HIM HAVE!

- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... and THEN THE WAY YOU ACT?