



# 1 Corinthians 15

*Jesus the Firstfruits* Sun, Mar 4<sup>th</sup> 2007

*Resurrection Sunday 2007*

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## **Open Bibles to 1 Cor 15**

- 20a - Now – Christ is risen from the dead!
- Today, that is what we are here to celebrate
- 1975 years ago – today, Jesus rose

## **On screen – picture of what is likely Jesus Tomb**

- Rich man's, unfinished tomb, near Cross
- Great news....it is empty
- That is what today is about

## **Jesus rose...probably all know the account**

- Yet still want to just read it as begin today
- Mark 16:1-14

## **That is the account – 1975 years ago today...**

- Lets consider this...but asking some practical questions for us today....

# I. Is the Resurrection Important?

## 1. Is the resurrection central to who we are?

a. Can't you be a Christian and not believe this?

## 2. Read v.14-19

a. Simple, everything in Christianity stands or falls with the resurrection – it is key

b. Christianity is a resurrection religion

3. Can understand why the resurrection constantly attacked  
– for the last 2,000 years

## II. Is the Resurrection True?

1. **Like the order of the proof of the resurrection here**
  - a. In many ways – it is the right order for proof in life
2. **First it is personal v.1-2 – if saved, saved because**
  - a. I know Jesus is alive – know Him
  - b. This is the place of personal experience - needed
  - c. Experience is needed...Yet...is not enough
    - i) Sincere, personal needed – but can be wrong
3. **Second – it is scriptural v.1-4**
  - a. This book, God's book – guide, manual, Word
  - b. Resurrection fulfills scripture – didn't make it up
  - c. Always ought to be our second proof
4. **Thirdly – it is factual v.5-8**
  - a. If had a trial, and had 500 witness, think win?
  - b. **Know this – empty tomb – one of greatest evidences**
  - c. **Every year – attacks on resurrection**
    - i) Understand why – central to all we are
  - d. **This year – the Jesus osiduary**
    - i) Totally untrue – proved already
  - e. **What if the disciples stole the body**
    - i) Right...fishermen, for what?
  - f. **Lie -that the disciples benefited from this**
    - i) 21<sup>st</sup> century lie – not a 1<sup>st</sup> century lie
    - ii) Today, are hucksters that cheat people
    - iii) Then...they died for their faith, all of them
  - g. **Without spending more time...simply this**
    - i) The resurrection is solid – facts support
    - ii) If study – you will see...more, many saved by

### III. What does Resurrection mean?

There are three main practical points in 1 Cor 15

#### **1. The Resurrection is our message 1 Cor 15:1-2**

- a. Mark 16:14-16 ☑ Our message is Jesus is alive
- b. Point....today, fulfill, proclaim – maybe saved

#### **2. The Resurrection is our expectation 1 Cor 15:12-56**

- a. Don't have time to cover all that is here.
- b. v.20-23 – Jesus is our firstfruits**
  - i) First of many more to come, made, paved way
  - ii) He is the first...but points to more coming
  - iii) Looking in the future to His return for fulfillment

#### **c. v.35-38 – what will that be like?**

- i) Silly if you think it will be like now
- ii) The glory of what is coming – far surpassing
- iii) Like looking at a seed & flower
- iv) Radically different...better...alive!

#### **d. v.42-44 – our body described**

- i) Now corruptible...then incorruptible
- ii) Now dishonor...then glory
- iii) Now weakness...then power
- iv) Now natural...then spiritual

#### **3. The Resurrection should motivate us now- 1 Cor 15:58**

a. This day, is meant to practically, presently motivate

#### **b. How...well, God actually tells us.**

- i) Now to show you this – move quickly
- ii) Go over details, some aware of, some not

#### **c. Note the term v.20 – firstfruits**

- i) More than just an example of Him going first

**d. Some know – this was a Jewish feast, Holy Day**

- i) In Bible, God gave Jews 7 feasts, Holy Days
- ii) Each of them foreshadow the work of Christ

**e. This day, Resurrection day – is Feast of Firstfruits**

- i) Jesus rose literally on this day, this Holy Day
- ii) In instructions for this day, see how to respond

**f. Lev 23:99-14**

- i) Quick background—there are 7 types of offering
  - A. Each describing the ways we approach God
  - B. Each fulfilled in Christ, reaching out to us
- ii) Four to be a part of this day, specifically

**g. First – wave offering – appropriate for self before God**

- i) Wave offering...before God – personal
- ii) Idea is to take hold of this day before God, holding in hand before God – real, involved

**h. Second – Burnt offering – total dedication**

- i) This whole offering was consumed on alter
- ii) Is a Biblical picture of being totally His
- iii) This day, is meant to motivate, bring this
- iv) Rom 12:1, 2 Cor 5:14-15
- v) Maybe this is what God is drawing you to

**i. Third – Grain offering – our service to, for Him**

- i) Picture of our work, done for Him, serving
- ii) Note – needs oil, type of Spirit
- iii) Today, right to dedicate self to serving Him

**j. Fourth – drink offering, wine offering**

- i) Always a picture of Joy in the Bible
- ii) Today, Rez day – is to be joy for us, produce it
- iii) John 16:22 – a joy that cannot be taken

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## Conclusion

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**Today, I wonder – what this day is to you**

Yes, is vital – is what Christianity is

Yes is true

But again, also to motivation – work in us, through us

Our message – it is today, proclaim it to you

Our expectation – looking forward to it

Our motivation – today, stirring, producing

- Taking hold of this day before God, acceptable
- Offering self in total
- Seeking to serve Him, in power of Spirit
- Finding your joy in His resurrection