

Intro: Those 2 events are the resurrection of Jesus in the past and the resurrection of all believers to eternal life in our future

Authentic Christianity – the Christianity of Christ and the apostles- is supernatural Christianity. It is not a tame and harmless ethic, consisting of a few moral platitudes, spiced with a dash of religion. It is a resurrection religion, a life lived by the Son of God.¹

The Bible ties the two together and especially in Paul's letters to the Corinthians.

I. 1 Cor 15:1-11 Christ's Resurrection

A. This is the Gospel, vss. 1-4

1. Received and stand in and hold fast to the Word (Not mere intellectual assent) 1,2
2. This is of first importance: Christ- died, was buried, and was raised on the 3rd day (In accordance with the Scriptures), Without the resurrection then (v.14) we are without hope and have no good news, no Savior and left with our sin. Without the resurrection the Christian faith is a mockery, a joke.

But can one reasonably believe such a thing given the evidence?

Jesus said to Martha (before the tomb of Lazarus) "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this."

B. The Witnesses, vss.5-8 (Paul doesn't mention the women here)

1. **To the risen Christ** – Peter (Cephas), the twelve, 500 at one time(most of whom are still alive at Paul's writing. Go ask them about it! James (half brother of Jesus), all the apostles
The Gospel writers also mention: Mary Magdalene, Mary (mother of James and Joseph, Joanna, and many other women. Don't forget the two on the road to Emmaeus
2. **To the death and burial** – Some of the above mentioned, plus Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus who prepared his body for the tomb. Add to that the witness of both the Jewish and Roman authorities, including the executioners.

C. Transformed Lives

1. The Frightened Disciples become martyrs for their faith in the resurrected Jesus.
2. Your testimony and mine

II. 1 Corinthians 15:12- Our Resurrection

A. If Christ has not been raised (the ramifications of unbelief)

1. Gospel is a lie or hoax
2. Your faith in Christ is futile
3. You are still in your sins
4. Your loved ones who have died will never be seen again.

B. Our hope is in Christ, yesterday, today and forever (absent from the body, home with the Lord)

C. Christ's resurrection: the first of many

1. We await the final resurrection. The living will be changed at His return. The dead will be raised up. From the same dust, but now spiritual life filling every molecule.

¹ J.R.W .Stott, *Christ the Controversialist* (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1970), 63.

D. How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body? 35

1. By our father, Adam > Death (inescapable, DNA), “became a living being” 45
 - perishable (physical body)
 - a man of dust, from the earth
2. By our Savior, Last Adam, Jesus > Eternal life “a life-giving spirit”
 - Imperishable
 - From heaven
 - 49 – As we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
3. A body suited for a new heaven and earth
 - imperishable
 - changed in a moment
 - dead will be raised and the mortal will put on the immortal body
 - Ex. Of caterpillar to butterfly (same substance) There is a witness in God’s creation.
 - The Christian committal at the graveside: ...shall be changed and made like unto His own glorious body...
 - Romans 6: *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
 - Jesus’ resurrected body – They touched him, and he sat down and ate with them, but he also came into the upper room without opening a locked door, he met up with two disciples on the road the same day of his resurrection, miles away...he ascends into heaven with the same physical body. When Mary saw him she mistook him for a gardener (not an angel).

Application:

1. We have the victory in Christ: be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (Not in vain!) 57, 58
2. We groan now, being burdened not because we desire to be without a body, but to be better “clothed” or fit for eternity. 2 Cor 5:2-5
3. Be of good courage(repeated), walk by faith, not by sight, our aim is to please him (here or there) 6-9 in resurrection, Holy Spirit empowered.

Jesus said...Do you believe this? Our proximity to death and the fragileness of our life is often an incentive for grappling with this truth.

-Only one remedy for sin and resulting eternal death

Jesus of Nazareth was and is the Messiah (He is coming again with a standing ovation of resurrected followers) Will you receive Him as your Savior today?