

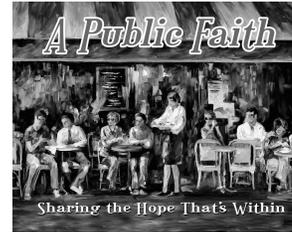
What Difference Does it Make?

If none of this is true . . .

- Going to church is a waste of time (15:12-14)
- Your faith is pointless because if Jesus didn't rise then Christianity is just a fairy tale (15:14 & 17)
- The New Testament is nothing but lies (15:15)
- You are still in your sins (15:17) . . . we are not and never will be reconciled to God
- All believers are losers because they've committed their lives to a fairy tale (15:19)
- There is no hope for a better life after death, so eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die . . . and there's nothing to look forward to except becoming worm food (15:32)

But . . . because it **IS** true!

- Christ's resurrection guarantees that our deteriorating physical body will be changed into a body that will never again experience the ravages of disease and death – Paul calls it an *incorruptible body* (15:49 – 53)
- Christ's resurrection proves that he has conquered sin and death and that we can find forgiveness and be reconciled to God. (15:20 – 26)
- Death and dying will end (15:24 – 28)
- We can face danger and difficulties without fear because this life isn't the end of our existence – we will live again (15:30 – 32)



SCC Message by John Aldax, July 31, 2016

Part 7

The Resurrection: What Difference Does it Make?

1 Corinthians 15:1 – 11

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy 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. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (1 Corinthians 15:1 – 11 ESV)

The Essence of the True Gospel

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that **he was buried**, that **he was raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,⁵ and that **he appeared** . . . (1 Corinthians 15:3 – 5 ESV)

1. Christ _____

“Christ” means “Anointed One, the Messiah, the Christ”

- The soldiers who executed him

John 19:31 – 34 — ³¹ It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. ³³ But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead,

so they didn't break his legs. ³⁴ One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. (NLT)

- **Pilate**

Mark 15:44 – 45 – ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. (NIV)

- **Jesus' friends who prepared his body for burial**

Matthew 27:57 – 61 – ⁵⁷ As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus, ⁵⁸ went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth. ⁶⁰ He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left. ⁶¹ Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching. (NLT)

WHY did he die? . . . Christ died for our sins.

Isaiah 53:5 – 6 – ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on **him** the iniquity of us all. (NIV)

Romans 3:22-25 – ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. (NLT)

2. He was _____

The **historical record** of the Gospels **confirms** that . . .

- Christ was buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb – Matthew 27:57 – 61
- The tomb was closed up with a large stone and a seal was placed on it – Matthew 27:60 & 66
- A detachment of soldiers was stationed at the tomb to prevent any possibility of a fake resurrection – Matthew 27:63 – 66

- The women, including Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb **expecting to embalm the body** of Jesus – Matthew 28:1; Luke 24:1

3. He was _____

Just as the heart pumps life-giving blood to every part of the body, so the truth of the resurrection gives life to every other area of gospel truth. The resurrection is the **pivot on which all of Christianity turns** and without which none of the other truths would much matter. Without the resurrection, Christianity would be so much **wishful thinking**, taking its place alongside all other human philosophy and religious speculation. (John MacArthur, *New Testament Commentary, 1 Corinthians*, p. 398)

Acts 3:11 – 15 – ¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. **We are witnesses** of this. (NIV)

4. He was _____

Christ's resurrection was totally verified by **recognizable** and **known eyewitnesses**.

He was SEEN by . . .

- **Peter** – one of the first people to see him after the resurrection
 - **The Twelve** – a term designating the original group of disciples
- Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." (John 20:27)
- **Over 500**
 - **James** – Jesus' half-brother
 - **All the apostles** – apostles other than the original disciples
 - **Paul** – Acts 9