



*"I am the resurrection and the life"*  
John 11:25

The resurrection is the only logical explanation for the growth of Christianity in the 1<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

I (Apostle Paul) passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>4</sup> He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>5</sup> He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup> Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

**Author Peter J. Williams**

*The resurrected Jesus is recorded as appearing in Judea, and in Galilee, in town, and countryside, indoors and outdoors, in the morning and the evening, by prior appointment and without prior appointment; he was seen up close and at a distance, on a hill, and by a lake, to groups of men and groups of women, to individuals and groups up to 500, he was seen sitting, standing, walking and eating and always talking. Many are explicitly close up encounters involving conversations. It's hard to imagine this pattern of appearances recorded in the Gospels and early Christian letters without there having been multiple individuals who claimed to have seen Jesus risen from the dead.*

**Scholar N.T. Wright "The Resurrection of the Son of God"**

*"In two thousand years of sneering skepticism, no other explanations have been offered, that can satisfactorily account for how the tomb was empty, how the disciples came to see Jesus and how their lives and worldviews were transformed."*

*Kyle Harper, historian and author*

*"For Christians this life was always meant to be transitory, and just part of a larger story. A cosmic story, the story of eternity. They did live in this world, experience pain, and loved others. But the Christians of that time were called to see the story of this life as just one of the stories in which they had lived.*

## **I. There is a resurrection reality in Christ.**

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. John 11:25

### **Part 1- "I am the resurrection..."**

He's not saying, "I will be resurrected," though he will, and he's not saying, "Here's how you can live so you will be resurrected."

Jesus is saying, "If anybody is to live forever, I am the reason for it."

Tim Keller- *The essence of Christianity is personal pronouns. If you say, "The Son of God was born, he died, he was raised, he ascended, and he's coming again, that doesn't make you a Christian. But if you say, 'The Son of God was born for me, he died for me, he was raised for me, he was ascended to the right hand of the Father for me, and he's going to come again for me,' that's the essence of Christianity.'*

He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God. Romans 4:25

But God says, on the cross Jesus paid for our sin. Period.

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.<sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.<sup>24</sup> 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. Romans 3:22-24

## **Part 2- "and the life..."**

Two of our prominent ways to address death are by:

### **1. Denying it's reality.**

Tim Keller (**My Faith in the Face of Death**) "Despite my rational conscious acknowledgement that I would die someday, the shattering reality of a fatal diagnosis provoked a remarkable strong denial of mortality." "I found myself thinking, *What? No! I can't die. That happens to others, but not to me. When I said those outrageous words out loud, I realized that this delusion had been the actual operating principal of my heart.*

### **2. Saying it's natural.**

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 Corinthians 15:26

### **Apostle Paul taunts death:**

"So death, tell me, where is your victory? Tell me death, where is your sting?" 1 Corinthians 15:55

For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.

Philippians 1:21

"But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last.<sup>26</sup> And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God. Job 19:25,26

## **II. There is a resurrection reality in us.**

Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.<sup>26</sup> Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. John 11:25,26

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

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.<sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. Ephesians 2:8,9