

The Source of Unshakeable Faith

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Ecclesiastes 7:2 (NASB95)

² It is better to go to a house of mourning Than to go to a house of feasting, Because that is the end of every man, And the living takes *it* to heart.

- At a funeral you see clearly that your life limited.
- At a party you are largely ignoring what “really” matters.
 - (parties can be very good btw) – Feast w/God, Jesus ate with sinners, etc.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–14 (NASB95)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

Summary Statement: God wants you to have unshakeable faith that as a believer, you will be raised bodily from the dead because of the certainty of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH:

1. Some in the church are denying the resurrection of believers. (vs. 12)
2. Some doubt the possibility of a physical resurrection. (vs. 35)
3. **Background:**
 - a. “Corinth was a Greek city, and the Greeks did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.”
 - i. When Paul had preached at Athens and declared the fact of Christ’s resurrection, some of his listeners actually laughed at him (Acts 17:32).
 - b. “Most Greek philosophers considered the human body a prison, and they welcomed death as deliverance from bondage.”
 - i. This skeptical philosophy among other things was affecting the church and Paul needed to deal with it.
 - c. Paul up to this point addressing sins with the church.
 - i. He has also dealt with the great need for unity within the body of Christ.
 - ii. He has addressed the need for order within the church.
4. **Today:** Resurrection in a naturalism (physical explanations only) world is culturally foolish today.

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 12, 35

1 First, Remember what happened to you (through the good news of Jesus Christ (gospel) (vs. 1-2)

(Vs. 1) “Brethren” - Intimate word, likely saying: “Don’t you remember the gospel I preached to you?”

(Vs. 2) “Your lives have been changed”

Today: This applies today.

- **Is your faith being challenged?**
 - Remember what Christ has done in you!
- **Are you questioning/doubting?**
 - Remember the gospel that you heard, and that saved you. Today we have the same need.
- **There is also a gracious caution that true believers will overcome.**

2 Remember that the good news about Jesus (the gospel) was “according to the Scriptures” (vs. 3-4)

- **Luke 24:1-35** (Road to Emmaus)
- **Acts 2:22-36** (Peter’s Sermon and Understanding)
- **Isaiah 53:5-6**

“⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. ⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

 - You need to know that the suffering servant as prophesied here was written about several hundred years before Jesus walked the earth.
- **Gen. 3:15-** one would come to crush satan; **Gen.12-** blessing to all nations; **End of Gen.** –scepter would not depart Judah; **Samuel-** Davidic throne would never end; **Luke 2-** born in the city of David—“a Savior”

3 Remember the certainty of the good news about Jesus.

- **Oral Tradition:** (vs. 3-7 (8))
 - Stories about the resurrection were circulated from very early on with resurrection content:
- **The Resurrection was Witnessed**

(vs. 5) **Cephas-** Aramaic for Peter (reflects tradition)

The Twelve- general title rather than a head-count

(vs.6) **500-** “most of whom remain until now” –some have passed away (fallen asleep)

(vs. 7) **James** “Jesus’ brother” (conversion of a skeptical brother btw)

(vs. 8-10) **Paul** Persecuted the church

- Ex. If Osama bin Liden or a leader of I.S. became a U.S. Ambassador or a member of the presidential cabinet, what would you be thinking? (Exactly what the early church thought: “we can’t trust him.” “He has hurt the church.”)

(vs. 11) **Agreed upon:**The same message was preached from the beginning. “so we preach”

(vs. 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?”

(vs. 19) “If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

(vs.58)

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

Summary Statement: God wants you to have unshakeable faith that as a believer, you will be raised bodily from the dead because of the certainty of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ

Additional Info.

Dr. Gary Habermas has compiled a list of “minimal facts” which is data so strongly attested historically that even the majority of non-believing scholars accept them as facts. The facts described by Habermas are as follows:

1, **Jesus died by crucifixion**

2, **Jesus’ disciples believed that he rose and appeared to them.** (It’s important to note that he appeared to them in different places, and in different groups. Group hallucinations don’t happen.)

3, **the church persecutor Paul was suddenly changed.** (He was converted, suffered for his faith and ultimately martyred.)

4, **the skeptical James, brother of Jesus was suddenly changed** (He was converted and ultimately martyred as a believer.)

5. **The tomb was empty.** (The empty tomb, as testified, was in Jerusalem where the crucifixion was known and the claims could be confirmed. Both enemies attested to the empty tomb as well as women who were considered unreliable witnesses at the time.) The cumulative weight of the minimal facts overwhelmingly point to a bodily resurrection. Additionally any theory must account for all of these facts.

Others have noted:

- **Primary Day of Worship for Jewish people (Sabbath, etc.) changed because of Resurrection.**