

## **The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians**

### **Christ Appeared to Many**

1 Corinthians 15:4-11

- 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Resurrection**  
Paul mentions the several hundred living witnesses of the resurrected Christ as a comfort and encouragement for the Corinthians, not in order to prove that the resurrection happened. Paul is not cataloguing all of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus (Luke 24:13ff), nor does he begin with the account of the very first time when Jesus appeared to people following His resurrection (cf. John 20:11ff; Matt. 28:1ff). His information is not dependent upon what was to be recorded in the gospels (cf. vs. 6-7), and he was not trying to argue for the reality of the resurrection. Paul is reminding the Corinthians of that which they already know and believe (cf. vs.1-2) as a basis for his argument concerning the importance of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ for their theology and their hope (see vs. 12ff).
  
- 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Resurrection**  
The way in which seeing the resurrected Christ impacted people is hard to overstate. An encounter with the risen Christ brought several of His servants out of sadness and confusion and into joy and hope (John 20:13-18). The risen Christ changed the apostles from a group of men who had abandoned Jesus (John 18:25-27; 21:15-17) into men who would not abandon their ministry at the cost of their lives (John 12:33; Acts 12:1ff). Witnessing His resurrection was also the means by which at least one person was brought to repentance and faith (Acts 9:1ff).
  
- 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Resurrection**  
The supernatural and undeniable bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ was the focus of much of the preaching of the early church (Acts 2:24; 3:15; 10:40-41; 13:30, 34; 17:31; 2 Cor. 13:4; Eph 1:20; 1 Pet. 1:21). This is one of the crowning miracles that testify to the power of God and to Jesus Christ as prophet (Luke 9:22), Priest (Heb. 10:14), King (Matt. 1:1; John 1:49), and Lord (Phil. 2:9-11).