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PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1 Corinthians 15: ¹Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Pray : Father, thank you for the assurance of the resurrection. We pray that we will see through Your Word the reality that Christ rose from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED

INTRODUCTION :

A man was driving his children to church on Easter Sunday, he was trying to explain that Easter was when we celebrate Jesus raising from the dead. From the back seat his three-year old piped up, “Will He be in church today?”

Today we’re going to talk about the testimonies proving the resurrection of Jesus...that He rose from the dead.

The resurrection is important because it proves that Jesus is truly the Son of God and that He has the power to forgive sins and make us worthy to be called God’s children.

Without the resurrection, we are still all in our sins and we will still our marching ourselves to hell.

Note : The volume of historical facts and evidences regarding our Lord’s resurrection is so overwhelming that it takes more faith NOT to believe in the resurrection.

INTELLECTUALLY HONEST people who tried to disprove it ending up believing in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Quote : This is from Sir Lionel Luckhoo, identified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most successful attorney in the world concluded after an exhaustive analysis about the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ : “I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt.”

PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION : PRACTICE, PROPHECY, PEOPLE

***I. PRACTICES CHANGED**

- **A change in belief and behavior.**

1 Corinthians 15: ¹Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

Question: What is the gospel that they received?

** ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

Note : Verse 3-7 to is the basic “creed” that is being taught in the birth of the church...

Definition : A creed is a set of beliefs of a certain group and is recited.

VERY IMPORTANT : WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS?

The creed was written before Mark wrote the gospel. Mark is the earliest gospel written at around 37 A.D. and up. (Jesus died at around 33 years old)

So if the creed says that that he was raised on the third day and that Jesus was seen by several witnesses, then the enemies of the gospel could have easily produced the body or showed the tomb where he is supposed to buried.

But they cannot, simply because THE TOMB WAS EMPTY. BECAUSE OF THIS, THE FIRST CHRISTIANS WHO WERE JEWS, THEIR PRACTICES CHANGED!

Belief changes behaviour : The first Christian converts were Jews as shown in Acts 2 – people with deep convictions about Sabbath day, Passover, sacrificing a lamb... and yet they abandoned these practices because they knew that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah simply because He rose from the dead which shows their change in belief.

IN FACT, THEY DID NOT PRACTICE THE SABBATH ANYMORE AND STARTED GATHERING ON SUNDAYS, FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK BECAUSE THAT’S THE DAY JESUS CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

Quote : Beliefs changes your behavior. Behavior shows your beliefs.

I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand

Illustration: I saw Bro. Butch recently. We did a quick catch-up and we prayed for one another. I remember the testimony of Bro. Butch, whenever he comes from Saudi, he would be bringing liquor but then he knew about the risen Christ, and so when he comes home he brought chocolates instead. And his friends were asking him, why he's not drinking anymore and it's because he is already a Christian.

Remember : We have to remember that the early church was being persecuted, that's why Paul was asking them to "hold firmly to the word I preached to you"

Evidence/Example : The disciples were afraid of the Jews when they learned that Jesus died but in the end they were all willing to die for their faith.

(We'll discuss this later)

***II. PROPHECIES CONCLUDED**

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Question : What is the Scriptures during Paul's time? The Old Testament

Note : There wouldn't be any resurrection if Jesus did not die on the cross and Paul was stating the reason He died...for our sins and the way He died was precisely prophesied in the Old Testament.

Centuries before Christ was crucified, God had already ordained the details of His Son's suffering and resurrection.

Example :

**Isaiah 53: ¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

*¹¹ After the suffering of his soul,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied ;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.*

**Psalm 16 : ¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.*

Note : The Scriptures testified accurately Jesus' birth (even His place of birth), His suffering and death (even the taking of his garment) and of course, His resurrection.

Important Application : If the Scriptures are accurate on the details about Jesus first coming, then the Scriptures is also accurate on His Second coming.

Acts 1: ⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

Question : When is He coming?

1 Thessalonians 5: ¹Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Application : This is the reason why you can trust God's Word. It's because everything that is written here is true.

If you're having doubts, if this is truly God's Word. Just remember that Jesus rose from the dead as predicted by the Scriptures.

***III. PEOPLE CONVERTED**

***1. The quantity of the witnesses**

Aside from the twelve, James and Paul and different people

*⁶After that, **he appeared** to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*

KJV "have seen" optanomai

In short, Paul is saying look, **many saw** that Jesus rose from the dead and some of them SAW HIM AT THE SAME TIME....still alive... you can ask them yourself.

Apologetics : Some say this is mass hallucination

***Quote :** Hallucinations are individual occurrences. By their very nature only one person can see a given hallucination at a time. They certainly aren't something which can be seen by a group of people. - Dr. Gary Collins, noted professor for 20 years, author of several psychological books and president of national association of psychologists

In short, what the five hundred saw at the same time was true

***2. The quality of the witnesses**

***1. Peter**

Describe : He who denied Jesus because of fear of the Jews and was hiding inside the Upper Room in Acts 1 is now boldly proclaiming that the gospel in Acts 2 stating that Jesus rose from the dead.

***2. The Twelve**

What happened to Christ's disciples?:

These people who were cowards became bold in preaching that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and they were persecuted while most of them were killed for proclaiming that Jesus rose from the dead.

***Quote :** People may be willing to die for what they think is true. But no one is going to die for what they know is false.

Example : Suicide bombers, they are willing to KILL AND DIE because they THINK they will go straight to heaven. But what if they KNOW they are going straight to hell if they do that and it's a lie that they are going straight to heaven?

IN SHORT, NO ONE IS WILLING TO DIE FOR A LIE. Or another example, I'm willing to die dahil mali ang pinaglalaban ko...huh??? It doesn't make sense

The followers of Christ were willing to die for their faith because THEY KNOW that Jesus is risen.

Note : The next two are anti-Jesus before their conversion.

***3. James (the brother of Jesus)**

⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

Note : It wouldn't be James the son of Zebedee or James son of Alphaeus since he already mentioned The Twelve. This was the half-brother of Jesus, a skeptic when Jesus was proclaiming He is the Messiah, the son of God who eventually became the leader of the Jerusalem church.

****John 7: ⁵For even his own brothers did not believe in him.***

But James writing the book of James introduces himself :

****James 1: 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ***

Note: James was stoned to death.

REMEMBER MOST OF THE FIRST CHRISTIANS, THE DISCIPLES AND THE APOSTLES DIED A MARTYR'S DEATH – A PAINFUL DEATH. THEY DID NOT MAKE MONEY OUT OF THIS. IN FACT, THEY LOST EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF THIS. WHY? IT'S BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THEIR LORD JESUS IS ALIVE!!!

***4. Paul**

⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Etymology : abnormally born – ektroma – in short, born at not the exact time.
In short, what Paul is saying, he saw the risen Lord not as how the others saw him.

Note : Before Paul was a persecutor of those who follow Jesus.

Stoning of Stephen :

**Acts 7:57, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.*

How Paul was converted

**Acts 9: ¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*

***AFTER HIS CONVERSION**

¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

In short, he is saying before I was zealous to get rid of followers of Christ, now I am zealous more than any other to make followers of Christ.

Note : This happened because they saw the risen Jesus!!!!

CONCLUSION :

Now only two responses are knowing that our Jesus who is God became man and died on the cross for our sins and after three days, He rose again from the dead.

FIRST If you are not a believer and follower of Christ, here's what the Bible says :

John 11:25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

This means you will have eternal life with Christ if you believe.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

How do you believe?

Romans 10: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

(EVANGELISTIC) PRAY!

SECOND, FOR THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST. We know

Illustration: There was this little girl who was listening to the sermon of Jesus coming back anytime based on God's Word that she got her brush in her little bag and started brushing her hair. So her mom asked, "Why are you brushing your hair in the middle of the service". The little girl whispered, "I want to look nice and ready when Jesus comes back."

As shared last week, as Ptr. Ed Bolante said,

"The more important question is not "When" is he coming back? But "Are you ready when He comes back?"

Revelation 22:12 "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

May He find us faithful.

(Child Dedication)

S.G.D.