

- I. Proof of the Resurrection of Christ 1-11
  - a. The Corinthian's acceptance of the gospel (an appeal to their own experience) proved the resurrection (1-4, 11). Gospel – death, burial, resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - b. OT prophecies, 3-4, Ps. 16, 22, Isa. 53
  - c. Witness of Peter, 5
  - d. Witness of 12 Apostles, 5
  - e. Witness of 500 at one time, 6, Mt. 28:16; this rules out the argument that the resurrection of Jesus was a hallucination; note: many still alive to give testimony
  - f. Witness of James, brother of Jesus, 7, Gal 1:19
  - g. Witness of all the apostles, 7
  - h. Witness of Paul, 8-10
    - i. Dramatic change in his life, Ac. 9. He compared himself to at least an abortion or at best "one untimely born"
    - ii. His tireless work for the Lord & his church proof – all results of God's grace, 10
- II. Consequences of Denying the Resurrection 12-19
  - a. Jesus had not been raised, 13
  - b. Paul's preaching is futile and fruitless – they had accepted it as truth, 14
  - c. Corinthian's faith is empty, 14, 17
  - d. Paul is a false witness, 15
  - e. Corinthians still in sin, 17
  - f. Dead in Christ have perished, 18
  - g. Paul and the Corinthians are of all people most to be pitied, 19
- III. Necessity of the Resurrection 20-28
  - a. To **ensure** our own resurrection, 20, 23. Jesus raised as the first fruits from the dead, became the earnest. Analogy from Lev. 23:9-14 – 1<sup>st</sup> person raised never to die again
  - b. To **overcome** the consequences of sin, 21-23
  - c. To **conquer** all His enemies, 24-28
- IV. Questions for Those Who Denied the Resurrection 29-34
  - a. "Why are people being baptized for the dead?" 29 At least 36 different explanations – no evidence of practicing proxy baptisms
  - b. "Why am I in peril every hour?" 30-31 Beasts – metaphorically. "As a Roman citizen, it is highly unlikely that Paul was forced to fight animals in the arena. Tradition states that Paul, as a Roman citizen accused of treason, was executed 'outside the city,' and not in the area with the other Christians. The opponents of Jesus' apostles are figuratively called vipers (Lk. 3:7), dogs (Phil. 3:2), and swine (Mt. 7:6)." (p. 60)
  - c. "What do I gain by deception?" 31
  - d. "If there is no resurrection, are you prepared to live life without any hope of anything beyond just this life?" 32, Isa. 22:13
    - i. Epicurean – "eat and drink for tomorrow we die." They believe one is annihilated at death.
    - ii. Stoics – also denied the resurrection but as fatalists or denying themselves any pleasure unlike the Epicureans, Ac. 17:32
  - e. "Do you know that bad company corrupts good behavior?" 33

- f. 2 concluding thoughts, 34 – “awake to righteousness” and “stop sinning” by denying the resurrection. Spoken to their shame
- V. The Resurrected Body 35-50
  - a. Question: “How are the dead raised up?” Raised by those that deny the resurrection. Paul addresses them as “fools,” 36, Ps. 19:1
  - b. Answer, 36-50
    - i. God gives to all the body that He has chosen, 36-37. This is true in the vegetable, 36-38, and animal kingdom, 39
    - ii. Each body given by God possesses its own glory, 40-41. “Celestial” suggests angels, 40; “terrestrial” suggests earthly person, 40; “Heavenly” suggests sun, moon, and stars (41)
    - iii. Paul described the resurrected body in these terms, 42-50
      - 1. Resurrected body has a connection with the present body as seed has a connection with the plant which grows it, 36-38
      - 2. Resurrected body is imperishable, 42
      - 3. Resurrected body will be glorious, 43
      - 4. Resurrected body will be powerful, 43
      - 5. Resurrected body is spiritual, 44-46
      - 6. Resurrected body will be immortal, 53-54
      - 7. Resurrected body will be like the body of Jesus, 47-49, Phil. 3:21, I Jn. 3:1-2
- VI. The Resurrection Day 51-57 (cf. I Thess. 4:13-18)
  - a. All saints living and dead will be changed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, 51-54. Mystery (2:7, 4:1, 13:1, 14:2) – truth concealed in the past in the mind of God but now revealed by the Holy Spirit
  - b. Not all Christians will die (“sleep”), 51
  - c. All Christians, however, will be earthly body to resurrected body, 51
  - d. The living will be changed and dead shall be resurrected at the last trump, 52
  - e. Resurrection day will signal victory over death, 54-55. “Death ... victory” quotation from Isa. 25:8, cf. Rev. 20:14, 21:4; “O death” quotation from Hosea 13:4. “Sting” of death is sin, 58; victory over death is attained through Jesus, 57, Rm. 7:25, 8:37
- VII. A Final Admonition 58 In light of the resurrection,
  - a. Be steadfast, 7:37
  - b. Be immovable, Eph. 4:14
  - c. Be continually abounding in the work of the Lord, Jn. 9:34
  - d. Remember: labor for the Lord is not in vain or unfruitful, II Cor. 6:5, 10:15, 11:23. Labor – “kopos” – wearisome toil
  - e. Motivation – the resurrection. Note: “Therefore” at the beginning of the sentence

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