

## WHY BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION?

### 1 Corinthians 15:12-14; 20-22

**Introduction:** Many people look upon death as the end of existence and any talk of heaven or hell is ridiculous. Many people believe in reincarnation and eventually reach the state of perfect nothingness. Many people have experienced dramatic events while being "clinically" dead such as out of the body experiences, bright lights, total peace, meeting dead loved ones, etc.

Believe in life after death but don't base that belief on the reports of those who had "out of the body experiences" or those who think they have been "reincarnated." Believe in life after death because the Word of God says it is so!

We are to look forward to that day when those who have died in Christ will be given new bodies and the living believers changed and through endless ages enjoy what God has promised His family. Our hope is guaranteed by the RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.

Believe in life after death and believe in the resurrection of the body. Believe in a wonderful existence in heaven that awaits every believer because Jesus was triumphant over sin, death and the grave.

No one can deny these proofs of His resurrection:

#### 1. The Empty Tomb

- Soldiers saw it, government officials knew of it, and the women who went to the tomb that morning saw it.

#### 2. The Appearances of the Risen Savior

- There were numerous appearance of Jesus, from one to over 500 at once.
- He appeared in various situations, sometimes face to face with a single one, sometimes to several.
- He appeared at His tomb, on a road, in a locked upper room, on a sea shore, on a mountain side.

#### 3. The Testimonies of the Eye Witnesses

- None wanted to believe it was Jesus, all doubted at first.
- He appeared to so many different kinds of people.
- The circumstances of His appearances were so different.

#### 4. The Transformation of the Lives of the Disciples

- Before the resurrection hopes were dashed, confidence was lost, no courage, a pathetic group.
- After the resurrection and especially after the Day of Pentecost the disciples were preaching, fearless and eventually all died for Jesus, just one of old age, the others were slain.
- The disciples were totally transformed after the Lord was resurrected.

#### 5. The Emergence of The Lord's Day

- Before the resurrection there was only the Sabbath.
- After the resurrection the first day of the week, Sunday has been the day of Worship, celebration of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**6. The Birth and Growth of the Church**

- Nothing has been able to stop the growth of the Church through these 2,000 plus years.

**7. The Authority of the Scriptures**

- Over and over, again and again God's Word proclaims: "***HE IS RISEN!***"

**8. The Effect of Christianity Upon the World**

- Schools, hospitals, benevolent organizations, etc. all started by Christian organizations.
- Everywhere there is NO Church there is enslavement of people.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Believe in life after death as a gift from God and through one's belief in God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ and His resurrection.
2. I believe! What about you?
3. *1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; 57, 58*