



resurrection

THE TESTIMONY OF THE RESURRECTION

¹Now, brothers and sisters, 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,

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NIV)

⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

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

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NIV)

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.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NIV)



Three Things Are Required to Make a Testimony Trustworthy:

1. The witnesses must be competent firsthand witnesses
2. They must be sufficient in number
3. They must have a good reputation

Liberal scholar John A.T. Robinson of Cambridge conceded that “the burial of Jesus Christ is one of the earliest and best-attested facts about Jesus.”

-The Human Face of God

“It is extremely difficult to object to the empty tomb on historical grounds; those who deny it do so on the basis of theological or philosophical assumptions.”

- D.H. Van Daalen, *The Real Resurrection*

“Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander the Great, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, he shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without eloquence of school, he spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet...



Without writing a single line, he set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and sweet songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times. Born in a manger and crucified a malefactor, he now controls the destinies of the civilized world and rules a spiritual empire which embraces one-third of the inhabitants of the globe...



All of this is true because of his bodily resurrection from among the dead.”

- Dr. Philip Schaff, *Schaff's History of the Christian Church*

The Resurrection Releases His Grace

“For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace to me was not without effect.”

1 Corinthians 15:9-10a (NIV)

The Resurrection Releases His Grace

Grace: Divine influence on the heart in the form of a gift or an outworking of God's will; the inward, invisible, superhuman, and life-giving action of the Holy Ghost upon the soul of man.

Resurrection Grace Was at Work in Paul

“But 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.”

1 Corinthians 15:10b

Resurrection Grace Was at Work in Paul

Paul's Testimony: "I Am Made By Grace!"

1. By Grace He Went to the Worst
2. By Grace He Worked on the Worst
3. By Grace He Used the Worst

Resurrection Grace Is at Work In Us

“But 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. **Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.**”

1 Corinthians 15:10-11 (NIV)

Resurrection Grace Is at Work In Us

“But 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.**”

1 Corinthians 15:10b (NIV)