

31 March

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Resurrection Sunday 2024

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member who the eye witnesses to Jesus' resurrection were?
2. What are the three facts Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 15:3 – 4? (**Christ died for our sins, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day.**)
3. To whom did Jesus appear to in His resurrected body according to v.5? (**Cephas also known as Simon Peter.**)
4. To who else did Jesus appear to in His resurrected body according to v.5? (**To His twelve disciples.**)

 Let's go deeper

5. To how many of His followers did Jesus appear to at one time according to v.6? (**To more than five hundred at one time.**)
6. To whom did Jesus appear in v.7? (**To His half-brother James.**)
7. How did doubting Thomas respond when he saw Jesus resurrected? (**John 20:28; Thomas answered Him; "my Lord and my God!"**)
8. To whom did Jesus appear in v.8? (**Paul.**)
9. What did Paul do according to Acts 9:1 – 2? (**He persecuted believers.**)
10. Who wrote 1 Corinthians 15? (**Paul, the apostle.**)

 Let's apply this

11. 1 Corinthians 15:3 – 4; For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, that **He was buried**, that **He was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures...

- Why do you believe and worship Jesus Christ as God and Lord?
- How has the fact that Jesus lives, changed your life?
- As an eye witness that Jesus is alive, who can you share this good news with this week?

SUMMARY:

Resurrection Sunday:

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 8

v.1 – 2; The Gospel is only of benefit to us if we receive it and stand on it. To receive it means to believe it. The Corinthian believers did well to receive the Gospel. But they had to continue to hold fast to the Gospel Paul preached to them. We should not only have a good past or a good present, but also a great future with the Lord.

Hold fast also implies there were some people or some things which might want to snatch the true gospel away from the Corinthian believers. This is why they had to hold on! If the Corinthian believers did not continue to hold fast, one day they might let go of the gospel. And if one lets go of the gospel, all their previous belief will not do them any good. It was as if they had believed in vain.

v.3 – 4; Paul did not make up this gospel. He received it (and not from man, but from Jesus Christ, according to Galatians 1:11 – 12), and Paul delivered it. This is not "Paul's gospel" in the sense that he created it or fashioned it; it is "Paul's gospel" in the sense that he personally believes it and spreads it. This gospel is not clever teachings or good advice. At the core of the gospel are things that happened – actual, real, historical events. **The death of Jesus Christ**, the Messiah, the Son of God, is the centre of the gospel.

The **burial of Jesus** is proof that He really died, you don't bury someone unless they are dead, and Jesus' death was confirmed at the cross before He was taken down to be buried (see John 19:31 – 37). Jesus' burial fulfilled the Scriptures about His burial.

Eleazar ben Azariah (around the year 100 A.D.) said: "A day and a night make a whole day, and a portion of a whole day is seen as a whole day." This demonstrates how in Jesus' day, the phrase three days and three nights did not necessarily mean a 72-hour period, but a period including at least the portions of three days and three nights. "According to **Jewish tradition**, 'three days' would include parts of Friday afternoon, all of Saturday, and Sunday morning."

v.5 – 8; Paul now calls forth these witnesses to the resurrection, to establish beyond all controversy that Jesus was raised from the dead in a resurrection body.

Jesus appeared to **Simon Peter** see Luke 24:34.

Jesus appeared to **His disciples** see Mark 16:14.

Jesus appeared to **500 of His followers** see Matthew 28:10 and Acts 1:14.

Jesus appeared to His **brother James** see John 7:3 – 5 and Acts 1:14.

Jesus appeared to **Thomas** see John 20:26 – 29.

Jesus appeared to His **enemy Paul** see Acts 9:3 – 5.