

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Note: Great news; the tomb is empty we serve a risen Savior.

I. There is the proof of the scriptures. (3-4) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1. The resurrection of Jesus. Psalm 16:8-11 I have set the LORD always before me: Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: My flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; Neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: In thy presence is fulness of joy; At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. Peter explains this in **Acts 2:** This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that **God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.** The key question to ask is do you believe that Jesus died, was buried and arose from the dead according to the scriptures.

II. There were the eyewitnesses. (5-8) And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. Paul lists Peter, the twelve disciples minus Thomas, over 500 brethren, James, then all of the apostles with Thomas present. At the time of this letter it was still possible to talk to someone who had actually seen the resurrected Lord. Finally Paul lists himself; he met the Lord on the Damascus road after he had ascended. At that time Paul was persecuting the church. **Acts 9:3-6** And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. The witnesses had firsthand knowledge; they believed by sight. Remember what Jesus said to Thomas in **John 20:26-29** And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. We believe by faith not by sight.

III. There is the power of grace in our lives . (10) But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Paul says I am what I am by grace; I did not deserve it; I did not earn it; I have been changed by God's unmerited favor. Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 4:5-6** For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. God shines the light of the reality of who He is into our minds and when we begin to trust Him; He begins to transform us. The grace of God work in our lives according to **Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Christ gives us the faith and the power to live. . I am an example of the power of Christ to change a life. Some may say why would He do that? My answer is because of grace and for his glory. Paul also said the grace bestowed upon him was not in vain because he **laboured more abundantly**. In other words he made getting closer to Jesus a priority.

1. A changed heart is proof your faith is real. If you really want proof of the resurrection look inside at the change that has occurred in you. **2 Corinthians 3:2-3** Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. **Dr. Wiresbe writes:** Paul's readers had received the Word, trusted Christ, been saved, and were now standing on that Word as the assurance of their salvation. The fact that they were standing firm was proof that their faith was genuine and not empty

IV. The resurrection assures we can have Victorious Living. 1 John 5:4-5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1. Faith in Christ empowers us to overcome the world. 1 John 5:(4) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. What is in the world? **1 John 2:15-17** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. These are the temptations of the natural man but we also will need to deal with the trials of life. Jesus said in **John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

2. The resurrection means that we are able to be more than conquerors through Jesus. Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. **Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is experiencing the power of grace through the trials of life. It's having peace when you

are having an MRI. It's forgiving the person who has harmed you. It's allowing Jesus to be your shepherd when dealing with grief. Because the tomb is empty we can live assured that nothing can separate us from God. As long as we have God he takes the trials of this life and turns them into blessings.