

I'm Telling You, Jesus Really IS Alive.

1 Corinthians 15:5-7

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Main Idea:
Jesus is alive, body and all.

Prefatory Remarks:

- 1.) Paul in this passage is preparing to address the false and destructive denial of the resurrection from the dead (v3-4).
- 2.) Our text tonight does not naturally lend itself to a nice three point sermon
- 3.) I want to encourage us to meditate on these truths as we prepare to celebrate the preeminent Christian holiday.

1.) The "What" (v5-7)

A.) Jesus Appeared

B.) He Appeared to Cephas

"...got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, 34 saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon."

Luke 24:33-34

i.) this is obviously one of Christ's first appearances.

ii.) Peter's last encounter with Christ was his Denial

C.) He Appeared to the 12.

"While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to

them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; 43 and He took it and ate it before them."

Luke 24:36-43

D.) He Appeared to 500 Witnesses (v6)

E.) He Appeared to James

5 James Mentioned in the NT:

- 1.) James, the Father of Judas
- 2.) James, the son of Alphaeus
- 3.) James, the younger or the less
- 4.) James, son of Zebedee
- 5.) James, the half-brother of Jesus

"Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?"

Matthew 13:55

Galatians 1:18-19, "Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother."

"Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?"

1 Corinthians 9:5

"Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. 3 Therefore His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." 5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him."

John 7:2-5

F.) He Appeared to All the Apostles

Who are the Apostles? 3 Possibilities:

- i.) Includes the twelve and also a much larger group
- ii.) Another reference to the 12
- iii.) Another group altogether

2.) The "So What?"

How are we to think about this section?

A.) This happened.

B.) The importance of the resurrection: Without the resurrection, the cross didn't work.

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9

C.) Confidence