

Introduction

- 1 How many do you know who **don't believe** in life after death **or** that Jesus rose from the dead?
- 2 Founders of 2 other major religions of Islam and Buddhism both died and were placed in tombs
a Mohammed in Medina (8/6/732AD) b Buddha (483BC) –no claim to resurrection of the dead
- 3 Christianity alone claims their Founder Jesus Christ died but was raised from dead on 3rd day
- 4 From very beginning Chn belief was based on a Jesus' dead body was not found in empty tomb on 3rd day b His followers told He had risen as He had promised to do c Jesus is still alive today as God the Son, 2nd person of the Trinity d For the next 40 days He appeared to many different people at different times and places, ate with some, so not a ghost e Then ascended to heaven
- 5 From the very 1st Chn sermon by Peter in Acts 2, earliest NT writings 20 yrs later, the death and resurrection of Jesus on 3rd day **has always been central gospel message in all 39 NT books**
- 6 **If Jesus never rose from the dead then genuine Christianity doesn't exist, is a hoax and myth**
- 7 Resurrection announces future end of death in the fullness of time, as God's plan for this world

I 15:1-11 The Resurrection grounds the gospel in time, reality and genuine World History

A 15:1-2 Paul reminds them they believed the gospel he first preached to them Acts 18:1-

- 1 Greek philosophy believed in the immortality of the human soul after death, but not body
- 2 Some Corinthian Chns started to have doubts about the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus
- 3 Paul reminds them he preached the gospel, they responded by faith, received it as truth
- 4 By responding personally they **were saved from God's judgement, but** must continue to **firmly believe** the message **and live it out in daily lives, otherwise belief was a waste of time**
- 5 Paul met Lord (Acts 9), believed He had really lived, died, rose so wasn't teaching a code of ethics

B 15:3-4 The most important part of the Christian gospel message – sins can be forgiven if ...

- 1 Paul was not present during Lord Jesus' 3 years of ministry in Israel - **told by** Christian leaders
- 2 Paul reminded the Corinthian believers that **central to the Christian gospel message was that**
a Christ **died on cross once and for all**, as prophesied in OT (Psalm 16:8-11; Isaiah 53:5)
b **Why did He die? Paid perfect price “for our sins” alth. he had no sin** 1 Pet 2:22 –**forgives sins**
c **After** Roman Governor first confirmed Jesus had died, Jesus was then buried in Joseph's tomb
d **But** God raised Jesus from the dead on the 3rd day again **as prophesied in OT** (Isaiah 53:11-12)
- 3 Jesus' followers on 3rd day, went to tomb, **found it empty**, with no body, but saw grave-clothes
- 4 There were **written records of real events in human history in Jerusalem –AD date records**

C 15:5-11 Jesus appeared to many after His resurrection over 40 Days, later to Paul

- 1 15:5-7 Various followers of Jesus saw the empty tomb, were told He had risen from dead
- 2 He appeared/spoke to many of them at different times in different places
a **Peter**, who had denied Him 3 times b Then to the **Twelve** special Disciples
c **500** all at once - probably in Galilee (Mark 16:7) – some still alive, so his readers could speak to them about their experience d **James**, the ½ brother of Lord Jesus, who became one of the Christian leaders in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13) e Then **to all the apostles**
- 3 Jesus knew these disciples **would become** Chn church leaders, **must believe in His resurrection**
- 5 15:8-10 **Transformation of Pharisee Saul-become apostle to non-Jewish Gentiles Acts 9:15**
a Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus where he planned to arrest Christian believers
b He didn't deserve to be apostle as he had been the **greatest persecutor** of the Christian church
c **Was least of all apostles** who'd seen risen Jesus **but** God in His grace and mercy **chose** Paul
d **God gave Paul special responsibility**(Acts 9:15) to preach to the non-Jewish Gentiles + Jews
- 6 15:11 **Doesn't matter which apostle preached – they all believed and taught** same message

II 15:12-20, 30-34 Resurrection generates Assurance of faith, but

A 15:12-20a Some deny the resurrection of Jesus- if this is true, there are consequences!!

- 1 12 Paul preached Christ had been raised from dead – **How can they now not believe** this?
- 2 **How can** someone believe in Jesus, yet say there is no resurrection of dead? **Are consequences**
- 3 **If there is no resurrection then, a 13,16** Not even Christ has been raised, b 14 Apostles' preaching is useless c 14 Chns' faith is useless d 17 They **continue** in their sin, **still guilty**,

condemned for their sin & under God's judgement e **15** Apostles are preaching **false lies** saying God raised Jesus from the dead
f 18 Those Chns who have died **are still separated from God and have gone to hell** **If Jesus has not been raised from the dead**
4 19 If Chns only have hope in Christ for this life here on earth, then they must be really dumb and **should be pitied more than all men** because **a They're living a lie** **b By believing Jesus' promise** of a richer and fuller life of future hope which **does not exist if He is dead**
5 20a **But Jesus has been raised from the dead, so none of above consequences are true**

B 15:29-34 Arguments from Christian experience

1 15:30-32 Paul asks if **there is no resurrection why** should he **suffer persecution** from all sides, **be in constant danger every day**, as he **seeks to serve** the church of Jesus Christ.
2 If they only have hope in Christ for this life, with no life after death, then **a Let's drink and eat** for tomorrow, when we will die and there will be nothing **b Don't bother living a holy life, denying oneself** all the worldly pleasures around us **because** **c** We will not be answerable to anyone !!
d With no consequences or rewards if Jesus **has not** been raised
3 15:33-34 **Do not be led astray** by those **with non-Christian worldly values**, who **deny** the truth
4 **Return** to your senses, **stop sinning** by believing those who tell lies, saying there's no resurrection
5 **Shame!** Some **have given up** their belief in the true Gospel **and have turned away** from God

III 15:20-28 Resurrection of Jesus guarantees harvest of truth, forgiveness and future hope

A 15:20b-23 Resurrection guarantees a future harvest, hope for those who trust in Jesus

1 20 Jesus has really conquered death **3-8, being raised to new life** as **1stfruit** of all dead believers
2 Christ's resurrection, like future harvest, guarantees all who trust him will be raised to **eternal life**
2 21-23 Paul **goes back to 2 things from the OT** which verify what he has said above, is true
(1) 3 21 **In Genesis 2-3, Death, sin, separation from God** entered this world because Adam the **1st** man rebelled against God, thus rejecting God's control over his life, **resulting in a**
a Everyone, **except** Jesus, born into world, is born self-centred and sinful, under God's judgement
b Nothing anyone can do to remove God' judgement **c However** God in His love for mankind **in fullness of time**, sent His Son to pay price for man's sin by dying in man's place,
d Result Jesus **cancelled out all the first man, Adam did**, by sinning and rejecting God.
4 22 Death came thru' Adam, **but all who repent, believe** in Christ will be **a** Raised from the dead like future harvest **b Be made alive** in Christ (1Thes.4:14-16), **c later, be given** new bodies 15:44
(2) 5 23 **What is the 1st fruits?** In OT Jews had a festival of **1stfruits**, when they gathered to give thanks to God for blessing them with rain, sun, soil etc. which helped with harvest of **1st** of their various annual crops (wheat, olives etc.). **Therefore** they **expected** God to bless them with full crops later
6 When Jesus returns a 2nd time to judge all who have ever lived on behalf of God the Father, as first fruit to rise from dead 30AD, **all who belong to Him** will also be raised to eternal life at that time

B 15:24-28 After defeating all His enemies, Christ will pass the Kingdom to God the Father

1 **The Kingdom of God is made up of all who have repented, believed in Jesus** (Mark 1:15)
2 24 **The end will come when Christ the judge (27)** hands over the Kingdom to God, the Father
a **But 1st 25** Christ must reign until He conquers all his enemies thru' out world and in the heavenly places where they have authority and power-all false religions, anti-God governments, atheists, agnostics **whether whole countries, cultural groups or individuals in those countries** then
b Satan, his **demons**, angels, **all evil forces** against God, will also be conquered Rev 19:11-20:14
c 26 **Last enemy to be destroyed** is **death** - will be thrown into the lake of fire, **2nd death** Rev**20:14**
d 27 **Obviously** doesn't include God the Father **as He has entrusted judgement to His Son**
e 28 **Then the end will come**, prophesied in Psalm 8:6, when Christ, **the Son will make everything subject to God the Father, including Himself**
f God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit **will then be all in all - In total control of everything**
3 **Christ is risen, let's rejoice** -His death/resurrection defeated **and** will end death as we know it

IV Questions to ask ourselves

1 **Can you face death with confidence, knowing you will go to be with God in heaven at death?**
1 **If you have doubts why don't you ask one of the leaders to help you repent and believe in Jesus**
2 **If you do believe this, what do you plan to do about telling others who do not believe this?**

