

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### Witnesses to the Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Christ

#### Scripture Reading:

“<sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; <sup>2</sup>By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; <sup>4</sup>And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor 15:1-4).

- **Story of Jesus’ Resurrection:** (Matt 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9)

#### Introduction:

**A.** This past Lord’s Day (Easter), we preached a sermon entitled **Three Crosses and Two Choices** (Luke 23:32-43). **Three Crosses:** One Man died **In Sin** (Unsaved), One Man died **To Sin** (Saved) and One Man died **For Sin** (Jesus Christ – the Savior) – He is the only source of Eternal Life. **Two Choices:** Eternal Life (Heaven – dying to sin) or Eternal Damnation (Hell – dying in sin).

**B.** The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the foundation and crowning proof of Christianity.

- “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” (Rev 1:18).

**C.** Just imagine what your life would be like if Jesus’ Resurrection was a hoax. This would result in dire consequences - You would have a worthless faith; Jesus would be a liar as He predicted His resurrection; Preaching would be in vain; There would be no forgiveness of sin; and You would be false witnesses about Christ (1 Cor 15:12-19).

#### Point to Ponder:

“The resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian Faith; without it, there would be no Christianity. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other religions” – (Pastor Adrian Rogers).

#### Study Question #1:

What ways does Jesus differ from the leaders of “other” world religions?

#### Study Question #2:

What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you?

Based on our study, and according to the Scriptures, we will reference the witnesses to the Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Christ:

#### **I. Appearance #1: Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18; Mark 16:9-11)**

- Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the Resurrected Jesus.

**II. Appearance #2:** The other Mary and Salome (Matt 28:1, 8-10; Mark 16:1)

- Christ was seen of the women returning from the tomb.

**III. Appearance #3:** Simon Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5)

- “The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.”

**IV. Appearance #4:** Cleopas and another Disciple (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12)

- Jesus was seen by Cleopas and another Disciple on the road to a village called Emmaus

**V. Appearance #5:** The Ten Apostles (John 20:19-24; Luke 24:33-49)

- Christ was seen by ten of His Disciples (Thomas was absent) and others (“them that were with them”) – Luke 24:33

**VI. Appearance #6:** The Eleven Apostles (John 20:26-29)

- Jesus appeared to all eleven apostles (Thomas was present) “eight days” later at a home in Jerusalem.

**VII. Appearance #7:** The Seven Apostles (John 21:1-2, 14).

- Jesus appeared to Seven Apostles while they were fishing by the Sea of Tiberius which is the Sea of Galilee.

**VIII. Appearance #8:** More than Five Hundred Believers (1 Cor 15:6)

- Christ was seen of above (more than) five hundred Believers.

**IX. Appearance #9:** James, then all the Apostles (1 Cor 15:7)

- Christ was seen of James, the Brother of Jesus, then of all the Apostles.

**X. Appearance #10:** The Apostle Paul (1 Cor 15:8; Acts 9:1-7)

- Christ was seen by the Apostle Paul.

**XI. Appearance #11:** The Apostles in Galilee (Matt 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20)

- Jesus appeared to the Apostles in Galilee where He gave them the Great Commission – making Disciples of all Nations.

**XII. Appearance #12:** Mathias (Acts 1:1-3, 21-26).

- Jesus appeared unto Mathias after His Resurrection. One of the requirements of an Apostle is that of being a witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Luke said, he “must one be ordained to be a witness of His Resurrection” (Acts 1:22).

### **Conclusion:**

**A.** There is overwhelming irrefutable evidence in the Bible indicating that Jesus was resurrected from the dead and is alive forevermore.

1. “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matt 28:6).
2. “<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. <sup>20</sup> Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? <sup>21</sup> But he spake of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said” (John 2:19-22).
3. “Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places” (Eph 1:20).
4. “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses” (Acts 2:32).
5. “And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses” (Acts 3:15).

### **B. “I Serve A Risen Savior”**

I serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today.  
I know that He is living, Whatever men may say.  
I see His hand of mercy; I hear His voice of cheer;  
And just the time I need Him, He is always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

### **C. Jesus Christ Is Coming Again**

1. “I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2)
2. “I will come again” (John 14:3)
3. “<sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup>Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord (1 Thess 4:16-17).

### **Memory Verse:**

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Pet 2:24).

- Christ died for our sins, in our place, so we would not have to suffer the punishment we deserve.

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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**