

September 4–10

1 Corinthians 14–16

“God Is Not the Author of Confusion, but of Peace”



The Resurrection

1 Cor 15:3-8

What does Paul present as evidence that Christ was resurrected?

Howard W. Hunter

“Paul indicates in these opening words that his knowledge came to him by revelation from God, not from man....

“Paul was saying that he accepted the testimony of those who had seen him, and if there was doubt in the minds of the saints of Corinth, they could verify these facts from living persons. Then follows this significant statement: ‘And last of all he was seen of me also, as one born out of due time.’

“Thus Paul adds his personal witness, referring to his experience on the way to Damascus.... His dramatic change and conversion is used in his argument as the final point to prove the actual resurrection of Jesus. Paul was anxious that the saints would not only believe, but should never have the least doubt as to this basic fact upon which eternal life hinges.” (CR, April 1969)

The Resurrection

1Cor 15:12-22,29

What are some points Paul uses to argue that it makes total sense that Christ was resurrected?

What do you think Paul meant by, “if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”?

Paul H. Dunn

“That the resurrection was central to the early Christian message cannot be doubted. Writing to the Corinthians, Paul said, ‘if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain.’ Read in its context, it is clear that Paul is not trying to prove the resurrection of Christ in this statement. He is here appealing to the one thing that all Christians accepted in order to prove another point, namely, that because of his resurrection Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior; and through the redemptive mission of Jesus, as the Christ, as the Savior, man's own immortality and eternal life were assured. This was the gospel. This was the ‘good news.’ This was the faith of early Christianity.” (CR, April 1969)

Spencer W. Kimball

"Today is just a grain of sand in the Sahara of eternity. We have also a hope in Christ for the eternity that lies ahead; otherwise, as Paul said, we would be 'of all men most miserable.'

'How great would be our sorrow—and justly so—if there were no resurrection! How miserable we would be if there were no hope of life eternal! If our hope of salvation and eternal reward should fade away, we would certainly be more miserable than those who never had such an expectancy.' (CR, Oct. 1978)

John Taylor

"Were it not [for the resurrection], it would be of very little importance what our struggles were, or what we had to do within this world. We would feel, as Paul philosophically describes it, 'If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.' In other words, if in this world only we have hope, let us seize upon any and every opportunity presented to us and enjoy life, mingle with and join in the giddy strife of the world, and glide along with the stream, for our days are but a span, as a shadow they pass away and we are no more." (JD, 18:306)

The Resurrection

1Cor 15:30-32

JST 1Cor 15:31

I protest unto you the resurrection of the dead; and this is my rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord daily, though I die.

What do you think Paul means when he says that he is willing to “stand... In jeopardy every hour”?

Carlos E. Asay

"The real issue is, 'If a man die, shall he live again?' (Job 14:14). Will the grave seal our fate forever? Or is there a resurrection and another sphere of existence awaiting our souls?"

"Those who believe that the grave is man's final destiny live without hope of a better world and are inclined to embrace that fatalistic approach, 'Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die'. This approach often leads to wanton experimentation, immoral conduct, and all the other behaviors that reap misery and remorse of conscience.

"Whereas, those who believe in a life after death are much more inclined to lead purposeful lives. Belief in a resurrection and related truths encourages one to obey the commandments, repent of sins, serve others, and do the other things that bring joy and happiness both here and hereafter." (CR, April 1994)

The Resurrection

1Cor 15:55-58

According to Paul, what is the sting of death?

How is the sting of death overcome?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Death can be comforting and sweet and precious or it can thrust upon us all the agonies and sulphurous burnings of an endless hell. And we—each of us individually—make the choice as to which it shall be.”
(CR, Oct. 1976)

Gordon B. Hinckley

“The abject sorrow that comes with death, the bereavement that follows the passing of a loved one are mitigated only by the certainty of the Resurrection of the Son of God that first Easter morning.

"What meaning would life have without the reality of immortality? Otherwise life would become only a dismal journey of 'getting and spending,' only to end in utter and hopeless oblivion.

"'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' (1 Cor 15:55).

"The pain of death is swallowed up in the peace of eternal life. Of all the events of the chronicles of humanity, none is of such consequence as this." (CR, April 1996)

The Resurrection

1 Cor 15:48-53

What do you think Paul means by, “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God “?

Charles W. Penrose

“When the resurrection day shall dawn, the righteous... will come forth and stand erect again upon the earth in their own bodies, every part and particle restored to its proper part, making a whole and perfect frame; not a natural body, but a spiritual body; not a corruptible body, but an incorruptible body... purified and quickened by the power of God. And they will stand upon their feet again and enter into the presence of the Father, and be made like him. They will be in his perfect image and in his perfect likeness.” (JD, 23:156)

The Resurrection

1 Cor 15:40-44

What do you think Paul means when he says our bodies are “sown in weakness” but they will be “raised in power”?

Brigham Young

“Those who attain to the blessing of the first or celestial resurrection will be pure and holy, and perfect in body. Every man and woman that reaches to this unspeakable attainment will be as beautiful as the angels that surround the throne of God. If you can, by faithfulness in this life, obtain the right to come up in the morning of the resurrection, you... will be free from sin and from the consequences and power of sin. This body “is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption” (JD, 10:24)

Next Week:

September 11–17

2 Corinthians 1–7

“Be Ye Reconciled to God”

