

## JESUS IS ALIVE!

In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul says it is a good thing to be reminded about important matters in life. He said, #1. Because we are sinners Jesus died. #2. Jesus was buried. #3. On the third day after His burial He arose from the dead to live again.

Paul says, "Here are the facts if you believe there is no resurrection of the dead."

1. Jesus is still dead. He is still in the grave.
2. All of this preaching about a resurrection from the dead is nothing more than foolishness.
3. All of your faith is worthless.
4. We are all liars.
5. We haven't been saved from a thing let alone our sins.
6. All of those who believed in a resurrection of the dead before us who have now died are doomed and lost.
7. Living this life on earth is the most useless and hopeless thing that can happen to us.

Then Paul very simply states the other side of the argument.

1. But Jesus is alive! He has risen from the dead.
2. He was the first one to do so to never have to die again.

What was his proof that made him so bold as to believe Jesus actually arose from the dead? Paul talked with Him, and He met many other people who did as well. What do you suppose it would have been like to be one of over 500 people who saw Jesus alive? If it would have been me, I would have been skeptical and would have wanted more proof. I would have wanted to get up close and talk to Him, and take a really close look. In such cases a little bit of doubt is good, if it means you are going to accept the evidence and proof.

A woman wrote to J. Vernon McGee, "Our preacher said that on Easter, Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think?" McGee replied, "Dear sister, beat your preacher with a leather whip covered with sharp bones and glass, with 39 heavy strokes. Nail him to a cross and hang him in the sun for six hours. Then, run a spear through his heart. Embalm him and put him in an airless tomb for three days and see what happens."

Don't try to tell me that Jesus never fully died. No one who had lost so much blood from thorns, nails and a spear could have unwrapped the mummy type cloths that bound their hands, removed the 100 pounds of sticky ointment, in the dark neatly take time to fold the cloths, then in a weakened condition move a two ton rock, and also walk past Roman guards.

The only thing today that can keep Jesus in the grave is my own doubts, but I have none. What about you?

*Roy Goodlet is a retired minister and a member of Murphy Church of Christ. Email him at [royfcc@yahoo.com](mailto:royfcc@yahoo.com).*