



“He is risen!” (Matthew 28:6)

Biblical Evidence for the Resurrection

The Testimony of the Disciples

➤ Matthew 28:6

He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.



The Testimony of the Apostle Paul

- **1 Corinthians 15:14**
And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
(AD 54 – 56)



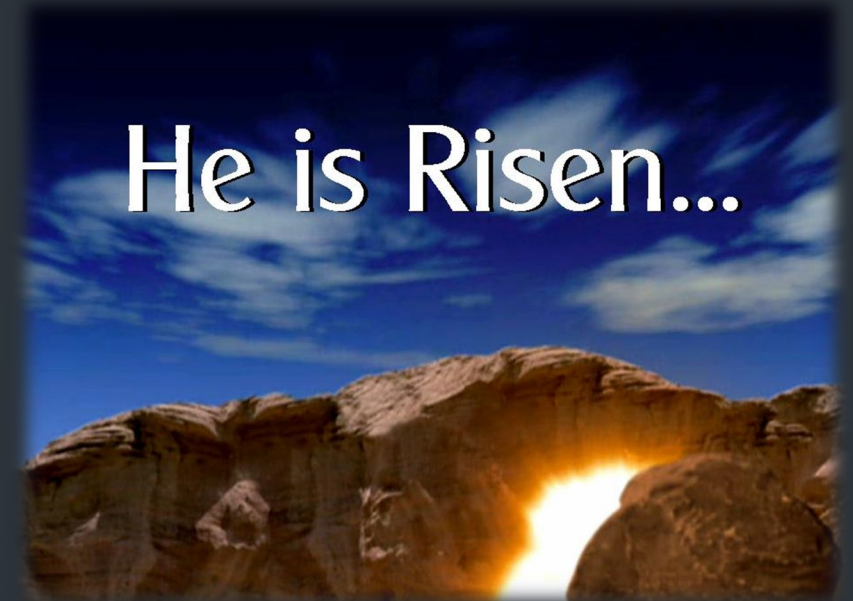
The Testimony of Jesus

➤ Matthew 12:38-40

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹ But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just **as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

It All Hangs on the Resurrection!

- ▶ Jesus and the apostles gladly put the whole credibility of Christianity on the certainty of the resurrection of Jesus! And they did it at the time when, if it had not happened, evidence could be produced against it!



Paul's Case for the Resurrection

- In 1 Corinthians 15:1-10, Paul lays out the case for the resurrection of Christ. He wrote it in AD 54-56.

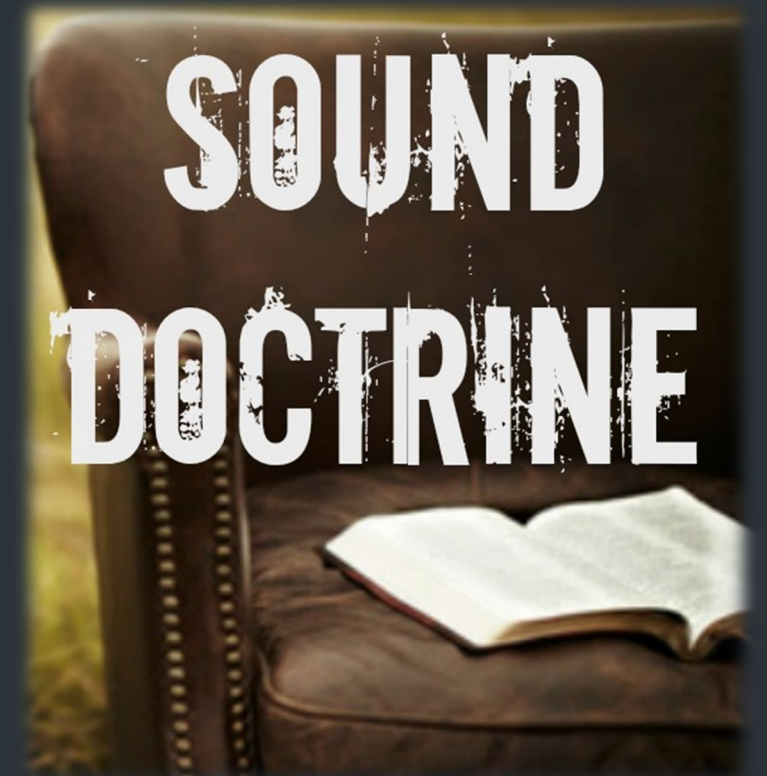
Let's consider his argument!



The Importance of Correct Doctrine

➤ 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 (CEV)

My friends, I want you to remember the message that I preached and that you believed and trusted. **² You will be saved by this message, if you hold firmly to it. But if you don't, your faith was all for nothing.**

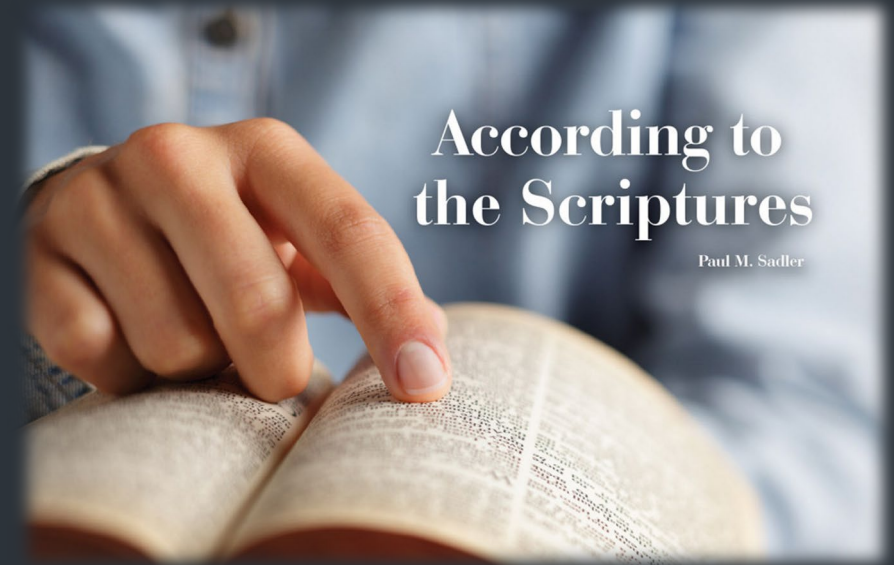


1. "...According to Scripture..."

➤ 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (CEV)

³ I told you the most important part of the message exactly as it was told to me. That part is: "Christ died for our sins, **as the Scriptures say.**

⁴ He was buried, and three days later he was raised to life, **as the Scriptures say."**



It could not be any different!

An Early Church Creed

- ▶ The format of this passage suggests this was an early creed—a statement of faith—of the early church.

It seems to reflect an even earlier statement of faith, very close to the actual death and resurrection of Jesus!



2. "...He Was Seen..."

- **1 Corinthians 15:5-7 (CEV)**
 - ⁵ Christ appeared to **Peter**, then to **the twelve**.
 - ⁶ After this, he appeared to **more than five hundred other followers**. Most of them are still alive, but some have died.
 - ⁷ He also appeared to **James**, and then to **all of the apostles**.



Eye Witness Testimony

- ▶ **Witness List**
 - ▶ **Peter** (respected leader),
 - ▶ **The twelve** (respected leaders)
 - ▶ **More than five hundred other followers**, most still alive
 - ▶ **James** (unbelieving brother of Jesus), and
 - ▶ **All of the apostles** (acknowledged leaders)



3. "...He Was Seen..."

➤ **1 Corinthians 15:8 (CEV)**

⁸ Finally, he appeared to me, even though I am like someone who was born at the wrong time.

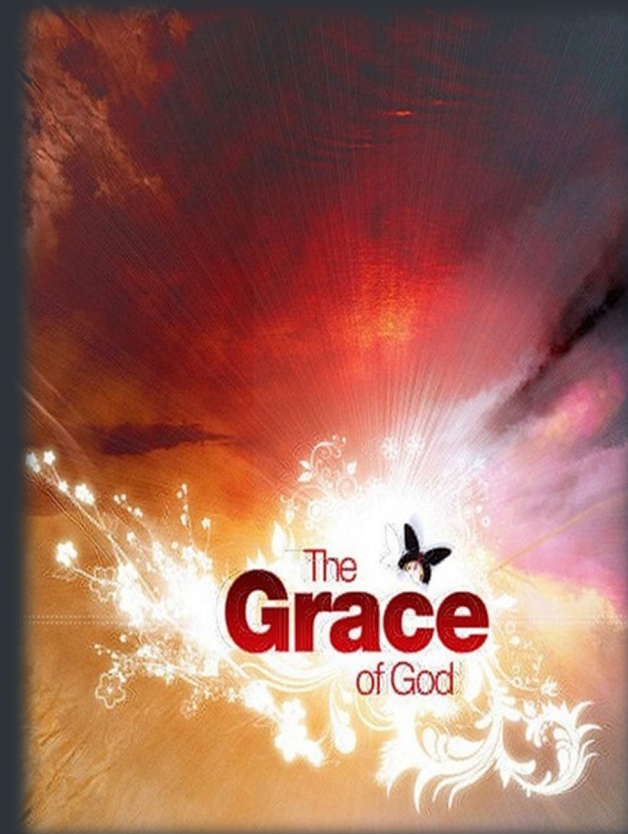
Paul tells us he is a witness with personal experience that Christ was indeed alive!



4. “...By The Grace of God...”

► 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (CEV)

⁹ I am the least important of all the apostles. In fact, I **caused so much trouble for God’s church** that I don’t even deserve to be called an apostle. ¹⁰ **But God was kind! He made me what I am,** and his wonderful kindness wasn’t wasted. I worked much harder than any of the other apostles, although it was really God’s kindness at work and not me.



A Transformed Life

- ▶ Paul's final point is that the power of the resurrection was the power that also transformed him from a persecutor to a proclaimer of the faith in Christ!



The Resurrection

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the best attested facts of history!

It sets Jesus apart from others and demonstrates that He is God and the Savior of those who believe!

