

Jesus Is Still “Rising”

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

OVER TIME, CULTURE HAS REDUCED “CHRISTIANITY” TO BE SIMILAR SIMPLY TO AN ESCALATOR

Christianity is a supernatural phenomenon

- “Died” Aorist tense: action in the past
- “Buried” Aorist tense: action in the past
- “Raised” Perfect, passive, indicative tense: action in the past that is still ongoing

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he “rises” on the third day...”

“HE HAS APPEARED AND HE STILL APPEARS...”

To Cephas... the twelve... 500+... James... all the apostles... Paul

I. IDENTITY

“By the Grace of God I am what I am”

II. POTENCY (SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH TO WORK HARD, ONE DAY AT A TIME, AND TO SWIM UPSTREAM) - *“I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”*

III. SECURITY

“Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed”

JESUS RISES AND APPEARS TODAY

Are you more like Peter (follower, but denies Jesus)? James (familiar, but doubts and derides Jesus)? Paul (far and familiar, but opposes and fights against Jesus)? Regardless, Jesus rises and is appearing to you... today!

As Jesus continually rises and as we receive Him, thus having our identity, potency, and security in Him, His Spirit enables us perpetually and habitually to witness the Good News of Jesus and to serve and add value to others.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1-3