

Introduction:

- "Fact or Fiction? Did Thomas Jefferson Really Write His Own Version of the Bible? FACT! Thomas Jefferson thought himself a very spiritual, moral man, yet did not ascribe to the supernatural elements of the Christian faith. In fact, he set about the business of summarizing and harmonizing the four Gospel accounts of Jesus' life and ministry, minus all references to the miraculous. Using a literal cut-and-paste method, he snipped and ripped, then pasted and glued his censored version into a mere 46 pages, calling the compilation of text "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth" (a.k.a., The Jefferson Bible). In a letter to John Adams, Jefferson called his "wee little book ...the most sublime and benevolent code of morals which has ever been offered to man." In Jefferson's account, baby Jesus was indeed laid in a manger, but with no shining star above, nor angels singing messages of Good News to shepherds as they watched their flocks by night. Likewise, in his account, Jesus was indeed nailed to a cross, but his missive ends with these chilling words, "There laid they Jesus and rolled a great stone at the mouth of the sepulcher and departed." **Application:** If this is indeed the end of the story, we are all in a world of trouble." "A Founding Father's View of God," by Louis Sahagun, Times Staff Writer, July 05, 2008, Illustration Exchange. This illustration is not accurate. Thomas Jefferson did not write a 'Jefferson Bible' nor did he cut out all the miracles. He wrote a small book on morals. The above illustration was written by Unitarians and rationalist who see Jesus as a moral teacher only. See Founding Fathers Bible pp. 1445-1449.
- *"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Corinthians 15:57, ESV) And these words of Jesus himself: ...
 - Rev 1:18 *I am He who lives, **and was dead**, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.* NKJV And Apostle John's words...
 - Rev 2:8 ...*'These things says the First and the Last, **who was dead**, and came to life:* NKJV
 - The Resurrection is central to the Christian faith.

I. Now I Remind You, Paul's Gospel - 1 Corinthians 15:1

- A. Paul is writing to the Corinthians in this first letter and in it he is bringing much correction to the church and re-laying firm foundations once again. 1 Corinthians 15:11, I preached, you believed!
1. What Paul is doing in the first 11 verses is laying the foundation/pathway to addressing the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 2. The resurrection is foundational to our faith. The resurrection is the message of the Christian faith.
 3. The resurrection is one of the greatest events to every take place in the history of man. It is one of the most life changing events in the life of a person when they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the reason why one would put their faith in Jesus. He lives! He is not dead! He was dead but lives.

4. The resurrection is the very center of the Christian faith. Without it we have no faith, or more accurately—our faith is vain.
- B. Paul states in verse 1, this Gospel, “I preached it, you believed it and received it, you stand in it, and by it you are being saved, *“If you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”* 1 Cor 15:2 “I delivered to you of first importance what I received.” Four things Paul mentions that he received:
 1. Christ died for our sins, according to scripture. Passover lamb, lamb of God, Abraham - God will provide.
 2. Christ was buried.
 3. Christ was raised on the third day, according to scripture
 4. He appeared: to Peter, the twelve, 500 people at once, James and last of all to Paul.
- C. This is Paul’s Gospel! And it never gets old! Jesus took our place. And Jesus took our punishment. Was buried –humble himself to die for us. Was raised on the third day and was seen by many! Proof of His resurrection!
 1. Paul is shoring up their faith by taking them back to the first things that he gave them.
 2. The four points: died, buried, raised, appeared establishes the movement of God in a person's heart and life.
 3. It makes a logical approach to resurrection, which he will now attempt to correctly solidify in them.
 - a) Gnosticism was very prevalent in Paul’s day and brought much error into the church.
 - b) It taught that there is no resurrection. Relied heavily on knowledge and logic. No supernatural.

II. How Can You Say There Is No Resurrection?

- A. Here Paul sets out his argument for the resurrection.
- B. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not raised.
 1. And if Christ is not raised,:
 - a) Our preaching is in vain
 - b) Your faith is in vain
 - c) We are misrepresenting God - because we have taught this everywhere!
 - d) If Christ is not raised, then sin has not been dealt with and we are still separated from God.
 - e) Those who have died in Christ have perished. “If in Christ, we only have hope in this life we are to be pitied.”
 2. But Christ has been raised from the dead and He is first fruits of those who have died!

- a) By a man came death and by a man came resurrection!
- b) In Adam all men died but in Christ shall all be made alive.
- c) Christ is first fruits from the dead and at His coming all who belong to Him.
(This is why Paul started with the Gospel: only those who belong to Him are raised in glory.)
- C. Why would we practice baptism if there is no resurrection? vs. 29 "Buried with Christ...Raised up with Him."
- D. Why are we endanger every hour? This resurrection message is dangerous!
- E. What do I gain for fighting beasts in Ephesus? It is not worth it if there is no resurrection.
- F. Forget it! Let's just eat drink and be merry!
 - 1. The apostle's actually saw Jesus! Having seen Him put passion into the message of the resurrection.
 - 2. Paul's argument is: How can you say there is no resurrection? Or think about the implications of no resurrection. Remember what I first preached to you!

III. How Are The Dead Raised? 1 Corinthians 15:35

- A. This is a great question because the answer inspires, answers and gives hope.
- B. What you sow has to die. I.e. seeds/ Kernel of wheat falls to ground and dies=much fruit. Jn 12:24.
- C. What you sow is not the body that is to be. I.e. Sow a mustard seed. Get a tree.
 - 1. Humans have one kind of flesh
 - 2. Birds have another .
 - 3. ish have still another.
 - 4. Sun, moon and stars all have their own glory.
- D. So it is with the resurrection of the dead!
 - 1. What is sown is not what is raised up.
 - 2. What is sown is perishable vs what is raised is imperishable
 - 3. What is sown is sown in dishonor vs. What is raised is raised honorable
 - 4. What is sown in weakness is raised in power.
 - 5. We are sown a natural body and raised a spiritual body.
 - 6. First Adam became a living being the Last Adam is a life-giving spirit.
- E. *"I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable."* (1 Corinthians 15:50, ESV) *"Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**,"* (1 Corinthians 15:51, ESV)
 - 1. Let me give you a mystery!
 - a) Paul uses gnostic language to get the Corinthians to see the revelation he is imparting to them.

- b) For Paul, the mystery is that which was once hidden but now has been revealed!
2. We shall all be changed!
- a) We are those who are born again.
- b) All shall be raised (those dead and living), [those in community with Christ.]
- c) Be changed!
- (1) The word 'changed' means "To exchange or to make totally other than what it is." To altar or exchange. To make a total transformation.
- (2) In a moment, a twinkling of an eye vs. 52 **"We shall all be changed!"** See also 1 Thes. 4:13-18 Parousia - caught up!
- (3) To be imperishable and immortal.
- (4) Death has no more victory! "Take that, death," he exults, "for when mortality is clothed with immortality, you have lost both your victory and your sting."
- Fee, G. D. (1987). *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (p. 803). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Is 25:8 and Hosea 13:14
- (a) *"He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken."* (Isaiah 25:8, ESV)
- (b) *"I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?"* (Hosea 13:14, ESV)
- d) This is why we love knowing that we will be raised up!

Conclusion:

- **"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."** (1 Cor 15:57 ESV) Gk. Nike - victory, supremacy!
- **"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."** (Romans 6:5, ESV)