At the time of Paul’s writing, a person could have verified the truthfulness of the apostle’s statements. The majority of the five hundred people who saw the risen Christ, as well as all the apostles and James (the half brother of Jesus), were still living. (The Nelson Study Bible, Page 1937)

 **4. The Brother - He Appeared to James and the Disciples (V. 7).**

Since this James is listed in addition to the apostles, he was neither James, the son of Zebedee, nor James, the son of Alphaeus (Mt. 10:2-3). This was James, the half brother of Jesus (Mt. 13:55) who did not believe in Christ before the resurrection (Jn. 7:5) but afterward joined the apostolic band (Ac 1:14) and later became prominent in the Jerusalem church. (The Archaeological Study Bible, Page 1880)

 **5. The Persecutor - He Appeared to Paul (V. 8).**

**Born out of due time.** Paul was saved too late to be one of the 12 apostles. Christ had ascended before he was converted. But through a miraculous appearance (Acts 9:1-8; cf. 18:9, 10; 23:11; 2 Cor. 12:1-7), Christ revealed Himself to Paul and, according to divine purpose, Paul was made an apostle. He was “last of all” the apostles, and felt himself to be the “least” (vv. 9, 10; 1 Tim. 1:12-17). (The MacArthur Study Bible, Page 1755)

There will always be people who say that Jesus didn’t rises from the dead. Paul assures us that man people saw Jesus after his resurrection….The resurrection is an historical fact. Don’t be discouraged by doubters who deny the resurrection. Be filled with hope because of the knowledge that one day you, and they, will see the living proof when Christ returns. (Life Application Bible, Page 2085)

**III. CLOSE –** Faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a prerequisite for salvation (Rom. 10:9-10). If you don’t believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, basically, you’re calling the Apostles, all believers, and God liars. On the other hand, if you believe the Gospel, you can be saved today (Rom. 10:13).

# *RISING STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH*

***2800 E. 36th Street***

#### Tucson, Arizona 85713

## *Sermon Notes*

## *April 5, 2015*

#### The Resurrection – Fact or Fiction?

***1 Cor. 15:1-8***

***Sermon Notes:*** [***www.risingstarbaptist.org***](http://www.risingstarbaptist.org)

***Vision: A Local Church with a Global Reach.***

## *Motto: One Mind, One Heartbeat, and One Direction.*

## *Rev. Amos L. Lewis*

***Senior Pastor***

**The Resurrection: Fact or Fiction?**

**1 Cor. 15:1-8**

**I. INTRODUCTION –** Christmas and Easter are the most celebrated Christian Holidays in American and many countries. Both believers and unbelievers are more apt to go to church on these two days more so than any other time during the year. These days are special because Christmas is the day we have set aside to commemorate the birth of the Savior, and Easter is special because it commemorates the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior. It is said that there are over 2 billion believers in the world today. Are all these people just blindly following myths and lies or are the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ are historical facts? In our message today, we want to look at the latter. Is the resurrection, fact or fiction? I believe Paul answered that question for us with infallible proof. It’s essential that we get an answer to this question because our entire Christian faith rests on the answer. When it comes to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there can only be three options:(1) A Great Hoax – the resurrection is False. (2) Mythology – the resurrection is Fiction. (3) The Supreme Event of History – the resurrection is Fact. Which do you believe?

**II. EXPOSITION OF THE TEXT -** As we come to our text,Paul writes about the resurrection of Christ and the witnesses who saw Him after His resurrection.

 **A. The Proclamation of the Gospel (Vs. 1-2).**

 **1. They Received the Gospel (V. 1).** *1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.*

Paul’s gospel to the Corinthians centered on the physical death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God who became human yet never sinned (see Gal. 1:6-10). Paul had started the Corinthian church; the gospel that the Corinthians had originally received came from him (2:2). (The Nelson Study Bible, Page 1937)

 **2. They Believed the Gospel (V. 2).** *2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

To hold fast means to keep in memory and to hold firmly. It implies continued holding and lasting possession. Paul wanted the Corinthians to hold fast the essence of the gospel—Jesus’ death and resurrection---lest their faith be “in vain,” that is, without cause or purpose. (The Women’s Study Bible, Pages 1920-1921)

 **B. The Explanation of the Gospel (Vs. 3-4).**

 **1. Christ Died For Our Sins (V. 3).** *3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

**According to the Scriptures** – The OT spoke of the suffering and resurrection of Christ (see Luke 24:25-27; Acts 2:25-31; 26:22, 23). Jesus, Peter, and Paul quoted or referred to such OT passages regarding the work of Christ as Ps. 16:8-11; Ps. 22: Is. 53. (The MacArthur Study Bible, Page 1745)

 **2. Christ was Buried and Resurrected According to the Scriptures (V. 4).** *4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

The Resurrection verifies the fact that Christ’s death paid the full price for sin. The Greek term translated rose here is in the perfect tense, emphasizing the ongoing effects of this historical event. Christ is a risen Savior today. (The Nelson’s Study Bible, Page 1937)

 **C. The Confirmation of the Gospel (Vs. 5-8).** *5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

 **1. The Leader - He Appeared to Peter (V. 5a).**

 **2. The Followers - He Appeared to the Twelve (V. 5b).**

 **3. The Believers - He Appeared to the Five Hundred (V. 6).**