Resurrection - Cont.

servation (I John 1:1-3). Third, look at their number. There were many eyewitness accounts (I Corinthians 15:5-9). Finally, look at the testimony of the Holy Spirit who spoke of it (Acts 2:33).

Since There is a Resurrection

Yes, Jesus was raised from the dead and this demonstrates that he is the divine Son of God (Romans 1:4). Because the resurrection is real, we have the following: preaching it is essential (Acts 4:2; 17:18), believing it is essential (Romans 10:9; 1 Peter 1:21), the apostles are true witnesses (Acts 1:22; 3:15; 4:33), we have forgiveness of sins (Romans 4:25; 1 Peter 3:21), dead Christians are still living beyond the grave (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and, living Christians have hope (1 Peter 1:3).

You and the Resurrection

Friend, life continues on after death and one day you will be resurrected (John 5:28-29). Because of a resurrection, life now has meaning and purpose (I Corinthians I5:58; I Thessalonians I:10), and, the judgment day is just as sure as the resurrection (Acts 24:15; Hebrews 9:27). Are you ready for that day to come? - Chris Reeves

- Scripture of the Week -

"For Ezra had set his heart to seek the law of Jehovah, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and ordinances. ."

- Ezra 7:10 -

Like Ezra, I want to have a heart that seeks to learn the Lord's law, that wants to do it, and that wants to teach it to others. I will make sure I have that heart this week.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Is There A Resurrection from the Dead?

"Now if Christ is preached that he hath been raised from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, neither hath Christ been raised: and if Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching vain, your faith also is vain. Yea, we are found false witnesses of God; because we witnessed of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, neither hath Christ been raised: and if Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable"

- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 -

Do You Believe in a Resurrection?

Abraham believed in the possibility of a resurrection. He believed that if God allowed him to sacrifice his son Isaac, that God would raise him from the dead (Romans 4:21; Hebrews 11:17-19).

However, many in Bible times, and today, lack the faith of Abraham to believe in the resurrection. For example, when Paul preached in Athens, some

among the Stoic and Epicurean philosophers mocked the idea of a resurrection. They did this because they believed that once you die you will not live on after death and so there will be no resurrection (Acts 17:32). The Sadducees also did not believe in a resurrection (Acts 23:8; 26:8).

The resurrection from the dead is actually a basic, fundamental teaching of the Bible that we must all believe (Hebrews 6:2). In I Corinthians 15, Paul argued for a resurrection. Let us examine his argumentation.

If There is No Resurrection

After Paul left Corinth, some of the Christians, influenced by the world around them, began saying that Jesus was not raised from the dead. Paul made the point that if there is actually no resurrection, then ...

- Jesus was not raised even though there were eyewitnesses who say otherwise.
- The preaching of Paul and the other apostles is vain - even though they saw the resurrected Jesus.
- The belief of the Corinthians is vain even though the truthful message of

the resurrection was preached to them.

- The apostles are liars even though they were telling the truth.
- There is no forgiveness of sins even though Jesus died and rose again for the sins of mankind.
- Dead Christians are just dead even though God says otherwise.
- Living Christians have no hope even though Jesus was raised to give them hope.

Is There a Resurrection?

The apostle Peter saw the resurrected Jesus and preached about it in his first gospel sermon on Pentecost in Acts 2. Peter referred to the testimony of prophecy (2:25-31) and to the testimony of the Apostles (2:32) as proof of the resurrection.

Still not convinced? Consider the eyewitness testimony of the those who saw the resurrected Jesus. First look at their honesty. They had the right character and motives (I Corinthians 4:9-13). Second, look at their competency. They had the opportunity and the ob-