

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 **Eye Witnesses to the Resurrection of Jesus - Apostles**

Hold fast to the Word originally preached

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain.

Eyewitnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus - Apostles

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Apostleship working in Paul

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy 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; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

11 Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Hold fast to the Word originally preached [1 Corinthians 15:1-2]

- ✚ The Gospel originally delivered to the Corinthians which they received as preached by Paul is the foundation on which the Church stands.
- ✧ You are saved through the Gospel message only if you hold fast to the doctrine of Jesus Christ to the end. [Matthew 10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13]
- ✧ If the person fails to hold fast to the Gospel message of Salvation to the end, he will not be saved, and his former belief will have been in vain.

Eyewitnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus – Apostles [1 Corinthians 15:3-8]

- ✚ The saving Gospel message Paul is speaking of that they first received from his preaching, is the message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- ✧ Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
- ✧ On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead according to the Scriptures.
- ✧ Jesus was seen alive after His resurrection by Cephas (Peter), then the twelve, and after that Jesus was seen by over 500 brethren at the same time.
- ✧ Most of the 500 eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ were still alive at the time Paul wrote these words, however some had died.
- ✧ After that Jesus was seen by James, then by all the Apostles.
- ✧ Last of all Jesus was seen by Paul on the road to Damascus.
- ✧ Paul views himself as one born out of due time.
- ✧ The primary qualification for Apostleship was to have been an eyewitness of the resurrection of Jesus. [Acts 1:15-22]
- ✧ Paul did all of his reasoning to persuade Jews of the validity of the Gospel message by demonstrating in the Scriptures that the concept was indeed verifiable.

Apostleship working in Paul [1 Corinthians 15:9-11]

- ✠ Paul viewed himself unworthy to be called an apostle, because he persecuted the church of God.
 - ✠ However Paul realized that God had extended grace to him making him an Apostle. which is a calling far beyond anything for which Paul felt worthy.
 - ✠ Paul accepted the Apostleship entrusted to him by God, and said, I am what I am.
 - ✠ Paul labored more abundantly than the rest of the Apostles to demonstrate that the grace God had extended to him was not in vain.
 - ✠ Paul acknowledged that the work of his labor was not his own, but was the grace of God working in him.
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- ✠ Paul's message is the same as the other Apostles, and the basis on which the Saints believed.