

Life is ONLY In The Resurrection Part 1
The "First Importance" of Jesus Christ's Resurrection

John 6:60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" **61** Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? *(now bear in mind Jesus told them the truth and they were offended)*

62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! **63** The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. **64** Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.

65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

66 From this time **many of his disciples** turned back and no longer followed him. **67** "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal *(age-lasting)* life.

69 We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

A Scottish preacher named Alexander Maclaven said:

*"On the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is suspended **everything** which makes the gospel the good news. Strike that out, and what have you left? Some beautiful bits of moral teaching, a lovely life marred by tremendous mistakes about himself and his own importance and his relationship to men and to God, but you've **got nothing left** that is worth calling the gospel."*

1 Corinthians 15:1 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. **2** By **this gospel** you are saved, if you hold firmly to **the word** I preached to you. Otherwise, you have 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**, *(John 1:29)* **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with **the Scriptures**,

54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

1 Corinthians 15:12-15 (MSG) Now, let me ask you something profound yet troubling. If you became believers because you trusted the proclamation that Christ is alive, risen from the dead, how can you let people say that there is no such thing as a resurrection? If there's no resurrection, **there's no living Christ**. And face it—if there's no resurrection for Christ, everything we've told you is smoke and mirrors, and everything you've staked your life on is smoke and mirrors. Not only that, but we would be guilty of telling a string of barefaced lies about God, all these affidavits we passed on to you verifying that God raised up Christ—sheer fabrications, if there's no resurrection.

3-9 (MSG) The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; that he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around (although a few have since died,) (*"fallen asleep" in NIV and ESV*); that he then spent time with James and the rest of those he commissioned to represent him; and that he finally presented himself alive to me. It was fitting that I bring up the rear. I don't deserve to be included in that inner circle, as you well know, having spent all those early years trying my best to stamp God's church right out of existence.