

Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith
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Bishop Omega Shelton, Apostle and General Overseer

*From the desk of Minister Donald Conyers, Executive Director Logistical and Strategic Planning
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To: The Loving Saints throughout the diocese
 From: Minister Donald Conyers **on behalf of Bishop Omega**
 Re: You can't be Christian and doubt the resurrection (parts 1 and 2)
 Date: November 28, 2010

Peace be unto you and praise the Lord. I am writing to communicate the scriptural references that His Eminence wants you to have.

Pretext: I Corinthians 15:1-58 provides the most extensive treatment of the resurrection in the Bible. Both the resurrection of Jesus Christ, as recorded in the gospels, and the resurrection of believers, as promised in the gospels are recorded here.

True believers “hold fast to the gospel:

John 8:31	II Corinthians 13:5
I John 2:24	II John:9

1	Unless you believe that He(Jesus Christ) rose from the dead, your faith /your believing that He exists means nothing	I Corinthians 15:2
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Appearances of the Risen Christ

1	To Mary Magdalene	John 20:11-18
2	To the other women	Matthew 28:8-10
3	To Peter	Luke 24:34
4	To ten disciples	Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
5	To the 11, including Thomas	John 20:26-29
6	At His Ascension	Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:4-12
7	To the disciples(the Emmaus Road)	Luke 24:13-35
8	In Galilee	Matthew 28:16-20; John 21:1-24
9	To 500 hundred people	I Corinthians 15:6
10	To James and the Apostles	I Corinthians 15:7
11	To Paul on the road to Damascus	Acts 9:1-6; Acts 18:9-10

The central point of being Christian: The first, most important, beginning for saving faith is to believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead (or you will be like the devils-demons who believe and tremble. They had no love for God, Christ and righteousness (James 2:19). **See true believers section above again.**

2	Because of Christ's resurrection, those who are Christ's at His coming will be raised in three stages to enter the eternal, heavenly state. (1) Those who believe from Pentecost to the Rapture will be joined by living saints at the Rapture to	I Corinthians 15:20-23; see also Matthew 24:36,42,44, 50 and Matthew 25:13
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	<p>meet the Lord in the air and go on to heaven (I Thessalonians 4:16,17)</p> <p>(2) Those who come to faith during the tribulation, with old testament saints as well will be raised up to reign with Him during Millennium (Revelation 20:4; Daniel 12:2) and Isaiah 26:19-20)</p> <p>(3) Those who die during the Millennium Kingdom may well be instantly transformed at death into their eternal bodies and spirits (Revelation 20:4-6)</p> <p>The only ones left to be raised will be the ungodly at the end of Millennium (Great White Throne Judgment of God) Revelation 20:11-15</p>	
3	<p>Then comes the end...</p> <p>This third aspect of the resurrection involves the restoration of the earth to the rule of Christ, the rightful King. After Christ takes over the restored world for His Father and reigns for 1000 years, all things will return to the way they were designed to be by God in the sinless glory of the new heavens and new earth (Revelation chapters 21 and 22).</p> <p>Christ will permanently conquer every enemy of God and take back the earth that He created and that is rightfully His.</p> <p>In the Millennium, under Christ's rule, rebelliousness will still exist and Christ will have to rule them with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15)</p> <p>At the end of 1000 years reign, Satan will be unleashed briefly to lead a final insurrection against God (Revelation 20:7-9). But with all who follow his hatred of God and Christ, he will be banished to suffer forever with his fallen angels in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10-15).</p>	I Corinthians 15:24

Part Two Preached on November 28, 2010

Principal text: I Corinthians 15: 28-58

1	<p>...baptized for the dead</p> <p>This does not mean you may be baptized for someone else. The Bible does not teach that a dead person can be saved by another person being baptized on his behalf. Why? Baptism was <u>never</u> has a part in a person's salvation. We know and quote Acts 2:38. I posit that we are to repent and be baptized every one of you because of the remission of sins (i.e. because of the taking away of sins).</p> <p>Paul in I Corinthians is saying if there is no resurrection and no life after death, then why are people still coming to Christ to follow the hope of those who have died? Why follow their example of being baptized?</p> <p>We know that water baptism does not save: See Ephesians 2:8,9; Romans 3:28; Matthew 26:28; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21</p> <p>All Christians have, by placing saving faith in Jesus, been</p>	I Corinthians 15:29
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	spiritually immersed into the person of Christ (i.e. united and identified with Him : I Corinthians 6:17; Galatians 3:27; I John 1:3; I Peter 3:21). Certainly water baptism pictures this reality, which is the purpose: to show the transformation of the Justified.	
2	I speak to your shame... You should be ashamed-embarrassed that some people (church) still don't know about God properly or at all	I Corinthians 15:34
3	Questions asked that Paul must answer	I Corinthians 15:35
4	Paul's responses: (1) An illustration from nature (2) A description of resurrection bodies (3) Contrasts of earthly and resurrection bodies Let's break out verses 42b-44: (a) Corruption- no more sickness and death (b) Dishonor- no more shame because of sin (c) Weakness- no more frailty in temptation (d) Natural- no more limits to the time/space sphere. Christ has the power to providentially create natural laws and miraculously overrule them (See I Corinthians 15:23-27). However, remember that Christ is able to subdue everything except God (the Father) See also Philippians 3:20 and 21.	(1) I Corinthians 15:36-38 (2) I Corinthians 15: 39-42 a (3) I Corinthians 15:42b-44
5	We will bear the image of His body- fit for heaven (Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20,21; I John 3:1-3), just as we now bear the image of Adam's fit for earth. People can't live in God's eternal heavenly glory the way we are now. <u>We must be changed.</u>	I Corinthians 15: 45-53
6	Paul enhanced his joy by quoting from Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14. Hosea taunts death as if it were a bee who lost its sting. The sting was the sin that was exposed by the law of God, but conquered by Christ in His death	I Corinthians 15: 54-57
7	The hope of resurrection makes all the efforts and sacrifices in the Lord's work worth it. No work done in His name is wasted in light of eternal glory and reward.	I Corinthians 15:58

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