

### 3. Questions to consider at home

- 3.1 Which of these three viewpoints about life after death do you find convincing?  
 3.2 If God looks after the souls of his people 'after death' until, at the last day, he gives his people new immortal bodies, where do the souls of his people reside before the last day and where do the new immortal, resurrected bodies reside after the last day?  
 3.3 Why is Jesus' resurrection so radical?  
 3.4 Why is the resurrection so important to the Christian faith?

Matthew Street - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Resurrection Appearances of Jesus

WITNESSES	SITE	TIME	REFERENCE
Mary Magdalene	Unspecified	The first day of the week	Mk 16:9 - 11; Jn 20:11 - 18
Mary Magdalene and the "other Mary"	On the way back from the tomb to where the disciples were staying	The first day of the week	Mt 28:9 - 10
Peter	Unspecified	The first day of the week	Lk 24:34; 1Co 15:5
Cleopas and an unnamed disciple	The road to Emmaus	The first day of the week	Mk 16:12 - 13; Lk 24:1 - 35
"The Eleven and those with them" (Lk 24:33), plus Cleopas and the other disciple. Thomas was not present.	Jerusalem	Evening on the first day of the week	Mk 16:14; Lk 24:36 - 43; Jn 20:19 - 23
The Eleven, including Thomas	Jerusalem; the same house as Jn 20:19 - 23	Eight days after the resurrection	Jn 20:24 - 29; 1Co 15:5
Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and two unnamed disciples	The Sea of Galilee	Unspecified, though it is described as the third appearance to the disciples	Jn 21:1 - 24
The Eleven	Galilee, on the mountain to which Jesus had directed them	Unspecified	Mt 28:16 - 20; Mk 16:15 - 18
More than 500 brothers and sisters	Unspecified	Unspecified	1Co 15:6
James	Unspecified	Unspecified	1Co 15:7
The Eleven	Bethany	40 days after the resurrection	Mk 16:19 - 20; Lk 24:44 - 52; Ac 1:3 - 12; 1Co 15:7
Paul	Damascus	Unspecified, though in 1Co 15:8, Paul claims he was last of all	Ac 9:1 - 6; 22:6 - 10; 26:12 - 18; 1Co 15:8; Gal 1:12,16



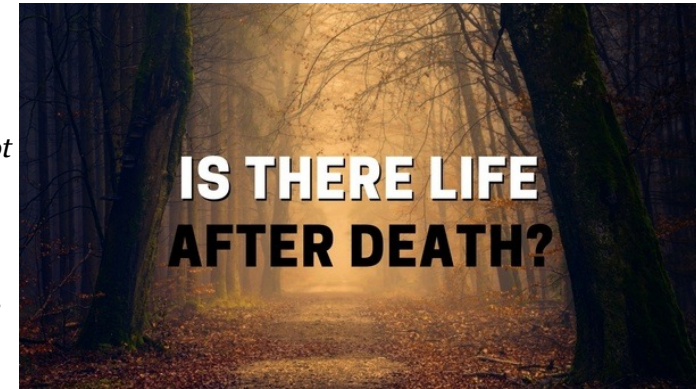
## The Parish of Wellow

### 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 51-54 - Raised from the dead? Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

#### 1. Talk Passage – 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 51-54

**12** But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. **15** More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. **19** If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

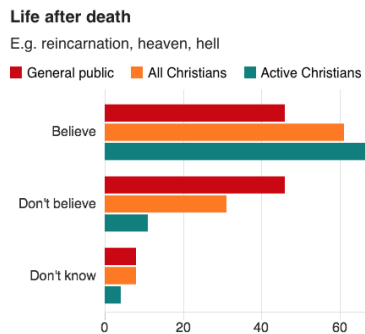


**51** Listen, I tell you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **54** When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'

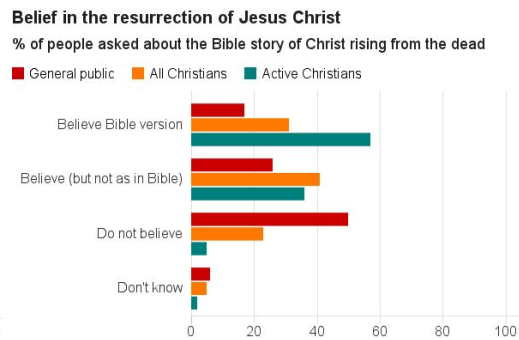
#### 2. Talk Notes

##### 2.1 Introduction - Life after Death? Resurrection of the Dead?

- What do you think happens when you die? A poll conducted by the BBC in 2017 reveals that about 50% of the general public believe in life after death. Interestingly a more recent poll, held in 2022, shows that younger people have a greater believe in life after death than older people. 51% of Gen Z and 53% of Millennials said they believed in life after death whereas only 39% of the Pre-War generation and only 35% of Baby Boomers said the same.
- As Paul comes to the end of his first letter to the church in Corinth he asks them and by inference all of us today a question: 'How can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?' (1 Corinthians 15:12)
- Clearly there were some people in the Corinthian church who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. When the BBC, asked in 2017, the same question they learnt that under 20% of the general public and under 60% of regular church goers



Source: ComRes survey of 2,010 British adults for BBC local radio



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believed in the resurrection of the dead .

- Paul continues: *If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.* (1 Corinthians 15:13) But can it be true? Can it be true that Jesus lived and died and rose again? Is the resurrection a fact or is it just fiction? That is the question that many in the church in Corinth were struggling with. What would be our answer be today? Do we believe that the resurrection is a fact? And do we understand what resurrection is all about? Or are we ‘Confused of Corinth’ as well!
- There would have been three conflicting views about what happens when people die in Corinth. In essence these views continue to this day:
  - ★ View 1 - there is no life after death. Our mortal bodies and souls cease to exist. (40% of the general public, and 15% of regular church goers believe this)
  - ★ View 2 - There is life after death but no resurrection of the dead. Our mortal bodies decay but our immortal soul lives on into eternity. (40% of the general public, and 15% of regular church goers believe this)
  - ★ View 3 - There is life after death and resurrection of the dead. Our mortal bodies decay but our mortal souls will be re clothed with an immortal body. (20% of the general public, and 70% of regular church goers believe this)
- So what do we believe? Do we have a mortal body and soul, both of which die when we do? Do we have a mortal body that dies and an immortal soul that lives on or do we have mortal body that dies and a mortal soul that will ultimately be re clothed with an immortal body?

## 2.2 No life after death – Our mortal bodies and souls cease to exist.

- The Sadducees along with many others in the ancient world did not believe in life after death. We know this from Matthew’s gospel: *That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question.* (Matthew 22:23)
- There were clearly some in the Corinthian Church who held the same viewpoint. Paul addresses them by saying: *If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.* (1 Corinthians 15:19) – Paul in effect says that if our relationship only lasts for our days here on earth - how sad is that!

## 2.3 Something beyond the grave - Our mortal bodies decay but our immortal soul lives on into eternity.

- This was probably the prevalent view amongst the members of the Corinthian church. Hence Paul’s comment: *‘how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?’* (1 Corinthians 15:12)
- Plato, Philo and many other Greek and Roman philosophers did not believe that

people’s bodies would be resurrected after death. They saw the afterlife as something that only happened to the soul. They believed that the soul was the real person, imprisoned in a physical body which was released at death. They believed there was no immortality for the body, it was only the soul that entered an eternal state.

## 2.4 Something beyond the grave - Our mortal bodies decay but our mortal souls will be re clothed with an immortal body - Resurrection.

- This was the prevalent Jewish position of the day. Most Jews believed in resurrection: that is, that God would look after our mortal soul after death until the last day when our mortal soul would be re clothed with an immortal body.
- That is what Martha assumed Jesus was talking about in their conversation beside the tomb of Lazarus: *Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”* (John 11:23-24)

## 2.5 ‘Raised to Life’ - Resurrection

- No Jew, not one of the disciples ever anticipated or understood until afterwards what Jesus meant when he said: *“We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”* (Matthew 20:18-19)
- What Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome stumble across on that first Easter Sunday is the most significant event in history – The tomb is empty because Jesus has been ‘*raised to life*’ or resurrected. And isn’t just these three who are going to see the resurrected Jesus. Paul claims that *Jesus appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 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. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.* (1 Corinthians 15:5-8) (see back page for all the resurrection appearances of Jesus)
- Paul reminds us that Jesus is the first person in history to be brought back to life in his resurrected body this. Jesus is the prototype or first fruit of what all of us have to look forward to: *‘But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.’* (1 Corinthians 15:20)
- Later in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 Paul reminds us that we too will be resurrected and given new bodies. Paul states: *‘Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed’* (1 Corinthians 15:51-2). – This is the prize at the end of the race that we all can look forward to.

