The Home Base Biblical Fellowship – THBBF.org

Session 4: I Corinthians 15:5 – 58 The Resurrection & The Case For Easter by Lee Strobel

* Series
  + Week 1 : Introduction
  + Week 2: Medical Evidence: Was Jesus’ s Death a Sham
  + Week 3: The Evidence of the Missing Body: Was Jesus’s Body Really Absent from the Tomb
  + Week 4: The Evidence of Appearances/Resurrection: Was Jesus seen Alive After His Death
* Recap
  + Why should we be apologetic? 1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,* ***16****keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*
  + What is a creed, Christian Creed, Resurrection Gospel, Apostle’s Creed, Jewish Creed, etc.?
  + How do we know that I Corinthians 15:3-8 is a Creed
    - Paul writes received and delivered using words to indicate he is passing along Holy tradition
    - The passage is written in the style of a Creed
    - Cephas, Peter’s Aramaic name is used indicating very early origins
    - Primitive phrases are present that Paul would not have used unless it was intended as a Creed
    - Written in Aramaic and Mishniac Hebrews narrative style
    - Scholars agree that his creed is the earliest tradition of all and dates back to the earliest phase of primitive Christianity
    - This creed was being used within 2-8 years of the resurrection
    - Paul was a skeptic when Christ appeared to him and is a first-hand witness
    - Most believe Paul also heard from Peter and James directly when he met with them in Jerusalem 3 years following his conversion
    - In Galatians 1:18-19, Paul describes this meeting using a Greek word to indicate he was interrogating/investigating Paul and James to get to the truth
  + Messianic Prophesies, over 365 in Old Testament that were fulfilled by Christ on first coming. 100 fulfilled in Passion Week alone. Probability of filling 8 = 1/1017th  or bowl filled with silver dollars with one marked two feet high the size of the State of Texas; fulfilling prophesies 16 = 1/10 48th . , Bowl size of earth’s orbit.
  + Why is 1 Corinthians 15 foundational to the Christian religion?
  + Christ died – why is this important?
  + Empty tomb – Why is this important?

**Session 4 the Resurrection 1 Cor 15: 5-11**

There are not eyewitnesses to the ressurrection – Does this hurt the case for this being a historical event

Did Jesus really appear after resurrection – what is the evidence

The Creed indicates Christ appeared to over 500. This is not corroborated in the Gospel accounts so is it unreliable?

The Creed indicates that Jesus appeared to Peter first but John says He appeared first to Mary. Do these contradictions hurt credibility?

The evidence from the testimony of the Gospels

Alternative Theories

* Mark makes no mention of appearances, Matthew mentions a few, Luke more and John the most. Is this evidence that stories of the appearances were just growing over time and therefore legend?
* The appearances were hallucinations

1 Corinthians 15: 12-58

* If there is no bodily resurrection then what (Death and Resurrection 1 Cor 15:12-25) ?
* What is the sequence of resurrection (1 Cor 15: 20-33)?
* What is the value of resurrection, how are we raised and in what kind of body ( The Physics of Immortality 1 Cor 15: 36-49)?
* When will the resurrection occur (Harpazo- Rapture) and what will happen to the Christians living at the time ( 1Cor 15:50-58)?
  + 1 Cor 15 Answers what happens to the living
  + Philippians 3:20 Answers what happens to the dead at resurrection.
  + Thessalonians 4:13 Answer what happens to the dead in Christ when he returns.