

A Sermon.

from 1 Corin. XV, 20. 21.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

The day of Christ's resurrection is to the Christiana believer preeminently a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving and justly deserves to be commemorated with songs of praises. We may say it forms an epoch the most important in the history of the world commencing a new era in the Church of the living God - that Church which has been established with God's

ancient people & now formed anew.
From Christ's resurrection we may date
a new creation, with it begins the resur-
rection of a fallen world ~~to be~~ ^{as} brought
about by that mighty power manifested
in Christ's resurrection from the dead.
By the raising of Christ from the tomb
the operations of omnipotence ^{& Divine Love} ~~to bring~~
~~about a new creation~~ ^{to restore & create anew} ~~from whom~~
sin has marred & ruined are ~~made~~ ^{& made apparent}
visible being demonstrated ~~to us~~
to admit of no doubt, whilst at the
same time God has stamped ~~with~~
it the abiding sacrifice of Christ with
the seal of his approbation and
acceptance. It is the finishing stroke
of the great & glorious work of redemption.
The Lamb slain for the sins of the
world has proved to be the Lion
of Judah & hath prevailed.
The victory of Christ is indeed a glori-
ous one - a victory over sin & the grave
over Satan & hell, partaken of

by all who by faith ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ their spiritual
union with ~~the great Dead~~ ^{him & those} as he
& living members of the great
Dead of the Church.

We can indeed not speak too highly
of this great event or exalt too much
the blessed results issuing from
the resurrection of our blessed Re-
deemer. It was the great fact to
which the Apostles so often appealed,
as the crowing work of all that
Christ undertook for a sinful world.

Their testimony of Jesus obtained
from it all its force & confirmation.
When on they referred to it, they did
so with a comfortable & happy assurance,
with ~~confidence~~ ^{triumphant} & rejoicing.

Oh, ^{if} we but ~~exterior~~ ^{would} more deeply in-
to its importance its bearing and
influence on this world of sorrow
& sin, of fear & death; we should

rejoice find new occasion to rejoice
~~likewise~~. Nay, if we are in any measure
partakers of the benefits of the resur-
rection of Jesus and can appreci-
ate the great salvation he has wrought
we must experience some emotions of
joy & gratitude. It was with a view
to this great day of deliverance & victory,
the day of Christ's resurrection that the Psalmist
~~was enabled to exclaim~~ after having related
past sorrows & troubles & ^{present} ~~obtained~~ help &
deliverance ^{exclaiming}; "This is the day about the Lord
hath made; we will rejoice & be glad
in it." The Lord just preceding to our text
been speaking of the stone which the builders
refused, which is become the head stone of
the corner. A prophecy which our blessed
Lord applies to himself.

But in order to enter more partic-
ularly into the truth & importance
of the resurrection of Jesus Christ
we shall proceed to consider in
accordance with our text

I, The certainty & confidence with which
the Apostle declares Christ's resurrection.

II, What bearing Christ's resurrection has
~~in reference to his~~ ^{on} departed believers,
both retrospectively & prospectively

And may the Spirit, whom he has promised
to send to supply his place as Comforter
Teacher be present with us now and
so instruct us in the great truths of the
Gospel that we may be rightly established
in them and with a full trust in the pro-
mises & hopes held forth continue faith-
ful even unto the end!

I, ~~What~~ The Apostle in our text speaks
with ^{a confident assurance} ~~the greatest assurance~~ of the resurrection
of Jesus Christ as of an unavoidable & momentary
fact - a certainty established by abundant
evidence. & You will observe that his lan-
guage is (as it were) a summing up or a
conclusion drawn by him of his previous
reasonings & arguments against such of
the Corinthians who ~~would~~ maintain that
^{emerged}

There was no resurre^{ction} at all - no general
resurre^{ction} ^{no resurre^{ction} of the mortal body} to which Christ was ^{as to the} look
forward. It would seem that these sceptics
have set gone so far as to deny the resur-
rection of Jesus Christ. But the Apostles
confronted their doubts & insinuation by
proving, even men in full what he ~~was~~
had proclaimed to them before that the
the resurrection of Jesus Christ was an
unassailable fact. It was the very foun-
dation ^{& earnest} of the gospel message. The certainty
of Christ's resurrection was the very reason
why the gospel was preached ^{at all}. It was the
momentous fact which ~~gave~~ ^{gave} ~~impetus~~ ^{impetus} to the
the Apostles to ~~preach~~ ^{preach} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~gospel~~ ^{gospel} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~world~~ ^{world} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~persuade~~ ^{persuade} ~~men~~ ^{men} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~believe~~ ^{believe} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~him~~ ^{him} ~~faith~~ ^{faith} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~him~~ ^{him} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~source~~ ^{source} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~hope~~ ^{hope}. How could they have preached
at all had they entertained any doubts?
They were themselves full of fear and
ready to give up all hope of the cause
of Christ after he had been nailed to
the cross and ^{his} ~~given~~ ^{expired} ~~up~~ ^{up} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~ghost~~ ^{ghost}.
With this death would have ended his
cause & Kingdom ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~follow-~~

the necessary
concession
of Christ's
resurrection
with that
of his be-
lieving
people &
he states

been silenced forever in hopelessness
 ere a word had become extinct. Had
 he not risen from the dead or had
 he not appeared to them alive again
 that they could see & handle him? ^{in such a}
 But the evidence of the reality of his ^{manner}
 resurrection body was so clear & tangible &
 satisfactory forcing itself upon
 the disciples & other friends & followers
 that they could entertain no doubt.
 It was not to a few only the Apostles
 for as that Jesus appeared alive.
 Not merely the eleven Apostles & the few
 clearest women who often ministered
 unto him, ^{that} saw him on various occasions.
 Some times all saw him ^{at once} & other times he appeared
 only a ~~few~~ ^{to} some of their number.
 Nay above five hundred brethren saw
 him on one occasion many of them being
 yet ^{dead} ^{alive} might still be inquired
 of. Nay himself too had seen him & heard
 him ^{addressing} him from Heaven so that
 himself was a ^{competent} ~~competent~~ qualified witness & solemnly

the veracity of the Gospel message.

Having thus ~~reluctantly~~ made the most
comprehensive statement of the ~~unbroken~~ ^{unbroken} ~~series~~
series of numbers to put Christ's resurrec-
tion beyond all possible doubt, a testi-
mony serving the Church as a confirmation
of the truth for all ages, the Apostle further
^{argues &} proves by most conclusive reasoning that
since Christ has risen assuredly the
hope of our resurrection ^{is} ~~is~~ established.
If there was no resurrection at all Christ
could neither have risen, if however he
had risen what he has sufficiently proved
then we have a sure ground of hope like-
wise. The two, Christ's resurrection and
the resurrection of the dead in general &
in a special sense that of the believers must
stand or fall together. To elucidate this
further we may argue ^{as generally with the Jews} thus. To give life
or to raise one who is dead to a new
life is only in the power of God it is the
attribute of the Creator, ^{of the Deity} ~~and in power~~;
now Jesus the Son of man was as such
really dead, yet he was raised again

by the power of God. It was no less a miracle
an act of the Deity in Him ^{since} ~~that~~ his body was
truly human as it would be in the raising
of our body. If resurrection in general were
an impossible & improbable thing, it would
have been so as to Christ's human body.
But his resurrection being certain, it would
afford the strongest reason for our resurrection.
The Apostle further shows the sad con-
clusions which we should arrive at by de-
nying the resurrection, the hopelessness to
which man in general would be reduced
and the Christian believer above all who
would even regard himself more wretched
than other men, were his hope disapproved.
~~The fruit would~~ Your faith is vain,
~~without~~ The Apostle tells his readers, if
Christ be not risen, ^{our} Christianity would
be a vain thing, an unnecessary supposition
of calculation ^{only} over a life more ~~a~~
~~a series of fear~~ than it is if ^{misery} aspect of fear
in sorrow, of grief & anguish of suffering
and we should make despair ^{only}

became more gloomy now appalling.
But thank be to God, we are not left
in so wretched & hopeless a condition
there is not that ^{expectation} eagerness about our
prospects & hopes as is peculiarly ^{rejoice} selfish
men's insinuate. We do not build on so
slight a foundation as to be overthrown
by the cavils or with objections of the
scoffer. ^{rejoice} ~~Christianity~~ is not the invention
of some ambitious impostor, nor the ~~mere~~
merely force of a man's imagination of the
circumstances which mislead men. The
Apostles stood on sure ground, they rather
were to decide ~~not~~ themselves nor would
they have any object in deceiving others.
We have not followed cunningly de-
vised fables, ^{but have been eyewitnesses of things & con-}
fess & declare, that we have handled as
it were with our hands, & seen & touched
them, ^{they speak of facts & argue not on mere speculation} ~~in their own language~~
~~that their assurance~~. They dared to
bear this testimony of Christ & the Gospel
before the multitude even
before the greatest enemies of the name of

they would
unfalsely
assert &
again.

Jesus and then though they ^{tried} to suppress
the marvellous ^{story} ~~things~~ of the resurrection
of Jesus Christ they ~~scarcely~~ attempt to deny
it. ^{when you are crucified to him} You have crucified the Prince of life
whom God has raised up from the dead, ^{of whom}
such similar language the Apostles add ^{you have}
reference to the chief men of the Jews; though ^{became the}
their living men in jeopardy, they could not ^{betrayers}
^{desire from} cease to bear witness of Christ & to announce
now especially his resurrection. The Lord
is risen indeed & was then joyful exclamation
on the instant his reappearance among them. Then
was the disciples' gladness when they saw the ^{so the same}
Lord? How happy were they when he first appeared ^{and words}
among them, ^{how precious when} ~~then~~ ^{then} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~sitting with~~ ^{sitting with}
clouds above, ^{signs and wonders} to lead his gracious, salutary
of "Peace be unto you." How universally
they assent to the absent & doubting Thomas ^{that Jesus}
then mark with what expressions of gratitude ^{was truly}
peace & joy & adoration the same doubting dis- ^{alive}
ciple accounts his risen Lord when
he was permitted to behold & touch him.
Lord his wounded side & his precious scars.
"My Lord & my God."

And then when filled with the Holy
Ghost on the day of Pentecost with
what fearlessness & courage with what
^{accents} of gratitude & praise with
~~language~~ what triumphant joy they proclaim
to multitudes not chiefly the sufferings
& crucifixion of Jesus, but that this was
a well known fact - but his resurrection.
But time does not permit us to dwell any
longer on the numerous concrete affec-
tions & the confirmed testimony of credible
witnesses left a record in the ~~Arch.~~ ⁱⁿ Scrip-
ture of the ^{importance} actuality of Christ's resurrection
as well as of its immense importance.
Alas! it is because numbers of professing
Christians, contented with a new code
anecdote to the truths of the Gospel without
taking a deep heart-felt interest in the
glorious message of the great & glorious Gos-
pel held out before ^{to} them that so little is
thought of many of the most important the
most precious & cheering parts of the Gospel.

That such a great & precious momentary
fact as the resurrection of our blessed Re-
deemer is listened to with so little emotion
of admiration & gratitude. Men learn these
things again & again & listen to them as if an
old story which they ^{had} known but which had
no more or but little attraction for them, or
they seem to think that the new admission
of the truth ~~was~~ ^{was} faith, or not having made
the gospel a meaningful plan of man's re-
ception in the subject of study & devout medi-
tation, they can not see the beauty, the excellency
the importance of all its parts. If you have
not followed Christ to Golgotha as a penitent
sinner & there beheld & ad^{ored} ~~adored~~ his dying
love; if you have not been made sensible that
you & your sins have nailed him then, if you
have not been made conscious of your perishing
lost state & contemplated that Christ died
that you should die eternally; if you have
not ^{meditated on} ~~contemplated~~ these things;
if his death has not been to you, ^{your} ~~your~~ ^{own} ~~own~~ ^{life} ~~life~~

on account of your sin & guilt
& soul an ^{afflicting} scene of sorrow & grief as well
as a proof of Divine mercy to excite you
to gratitude, you cannot rightly appreciate
or receive or you ought the blessing, the
comfort & Love, arising from the resurrection
of Jesus Christ. Remember not merely theo-
retical or historical faith is requisite to the
right understanding & appreciation of Christ;
death & resurrection but a lively ^{heart-felt} ~~earnest~~
practical faith ^{which} ~~as~~ will enter into all
the great truths of the Gospel with ^{earnest} ~~deep~~ ^{earnest} ~~earnest~~
with ^{earnest} ~~earnest~~ ^{earnest} ~~earnest~~ interest. Here I have enlarged
not so much on the historical proof of what is
placed before a reasonable doubt, but on the
sentiments with which the ^{apostles} ~~apostles~~ ^{apostles} ~~apostles~~ ^{apostles} ~~apostles~~
their conviction & assurance of the truth. I do not
merely wish to convince you of what I trust some
of you ^{will doubt} ~~will doubt~~ ^{will doubt} ~~will doubt~~ ^{will doubt} ~~will doubt~~
possible to arouse you to a new lively sense
of the great Love of the believer. I want to
excite you to a new ^{earnest} ~~earnest~~ ^{earnest} ~~earnest~~ ^{earnest} ~~earnest~~
the wonderful plan of redemption, the great dis-
play of love & mercy, wisdom & power, of God, now

glorified was presented as the first fruits of
all believers from among men, in his ^{his} resurrection
body. He was the first fruits even of them that slept
before, no man before him, none of the patriarchs
or saints attained to their perfect glory or im-
mortalization of bliss before Christ, the great me-
diator between God & Man, & so again it is
said Christ the first fruits & then they that are
Christ's at his coming. The blessed results of the
glorious resurrection of Christ are both retrospective
and prospective. The past & the future generations
of believers will benefit by his resurrection. Those
previously to Christ's coming slept in their graves &
those who have departed since & will depart while
his glorious advent at the last trumpet all
will receive from him both grace & power
to rise from their graves with new glorified
bodies or else if alive at his approach
they will suddenly be changed, the body liable
to corruption will assume by a transforming act of
God, as ours the incomparable immortal celestial
glorious nature of that pure perfect & glorious
world which is to come. It is a subject, my brethren,

There is a
season of
immortality
in which
in an instant
body to be
nourished
the body & bones
of Christ

generally too little thought of. The Lapping of
the soul is generally all that you hear spoken of as of
importance. That glorified resurrection body promised
to the believer is rarely thought or spoken of according to
the language of the N. T. I pray that that was the great

hope in which we dwell upon & cherish with us by
the Spirit. Just notice St Paul's language in one
place (I have not him to quote others) when speaking of his
current study. "If by any means I might attain unto

the resurrection of the dead" And again that I may
know him & the power of his resurrection. "Then can be no
doubt on the fulfillment which that but all will attain

to some sort of resurrection, but the resurrection of the just
the glorious resurrection of the first born alone with the living
for is evidently less meant. Over them there is a doubt

Not let us talk like the foolish men filled with unbelief
Even reason assists us in believing the Scripture promise of a
resurrection of the body. Does not every seed cast in the ground

though decaying, bring forth a new plant of its kind. does not each
seed reproduce not any imageable thing, but it can
reproduce a likeness why if so much more wisdom & omnipotence

be displayed in inanimate nature, why not in man the
image of God. So this resurrection then let us look
forward with confidence & hope, while be the resurrection of

our bodies, we are destined to be reunited to enjoy a life forever the glory
the glory the felicity of the pure happy world to come

To this glorious
and in instant
also the sacred
of the body & bones
of Christ born
as a germ of
living life.
Mark the joy
of our Church in
its prayer
on this occasion
The body of our
Lord Jesus
Christ whom
you body &
soul unto
contending
life.

to cause you to inquire into the ground of
your hope. If you then believe you are
spiritually united with Christ & if so you will
set your affections on things above, you and you
will see light in spiritual teaching subjects.
Your hearts will abound with gratitude &
at least you will be so impressed with a
sense of the Divine Love as to endeavor
to show forth your praises by a life devoted
to God's service & glory. Mark the language
of St Peter on the same important topic.

& Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ which according to his abundant
mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively
hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead. And this will lead us to conclude
briefly in conclusion

II, The important bearing of Christ's resur- rection on our future hope.

According to our text Christ has been the
first fruits of them that sleep. By this
language the Apostle not merely intimates
what he already has proved before, the truth

of a general resurrection but rather the re-
lation of ~~our hope of resurrection~~ or bearing ex-
isting between his own resurrection, the con-
nexion of the ~~Heaven~~ its members in the an-
ticipatory of our hope as depending on the
resurrection of Him who is our first born
brother as also our representative sub-
stitute in the atoning sacrifice offered.
The similitude of the ~~Apur~~ you observe is
taken from the Mosaic rite to present at the
commencement of the harvest some sheaves of wheat
or other produce before the Lord. This pre-
sentation of the first fruits before God or his
priests, in the temple was meant first as a thank-
offering secondly to sanctify by giving the Lord a
portion the rest of the harvest & invoke his blessing
upon it. But it was also an earnest of the com-
mencement of the harvest, the first ripe produce of the season
that the remainder was at the point of being ripe and
only after the ceremony of waving before God the first
fruits to a ^{be} gone through were the sheaves permitted
to gather in the general harvest. So Christ Jesus in
his human body as man, as one of us, but reserved