

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 preemi-  
nently a day of rejoicing and thanks-  
giving and justly deserves to be com-  
memorated 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 restor-  
ation of a fallen world ~~to be~~<sup>as</sup> 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 <sup>& Divine Love</sup> ~~being~~  
~~about a new creation~~<sup>to restore & create anew</sup> ~~from whom~~  
sin has marred & ruined are made  
visible being commemorated <sup>& made apparent</sup> to us  
to admit of no doubt whilst at the  
same time God has stamped ~~with~~  
in the atoning 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~~ <sup>to</sup> their spiritual  
union with ~~the great Head~~ <sup>him of good</sup> as true  
& living members of the great  
Head 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 crowning work of all that  
Christ undertook for a sinful world.

Their testimony of Jesus obtained  
from it all its force & confirmation,  
whenever they referred to it, they did  
so with a comfortable & happy assurance,  
with ~~confidence~~ <sup>triumphant</sup> & rejoicing.

Oh, ~~if~~ <sup>would</sup> we but extend more accep-  
tance 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  
~~no doubt exclaimed~~ after having related  
past sorrows & troubles, <sup>present</sup> ~~obtained~~ help &  
deliverance: "This is the day which 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 parti-  
cularly 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 him~~ <sup>on</sup> of 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 he has forth continue faith-  
ful even unto the end!

I, ~~While~~ <sup>With</sup> the Apostle in our text speaks  
with <sup>a confident assurance</sup> ~~the greatest assurance~~ of the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ as of an unexcusable & 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  
unforgotten



There was no resurrection at all - no general  
resurrection <sup>no resurrection of the mortal body</sup> to which Christ was <sup>also for</sup> made look  
forward. It would seem that these sceptics  
have set gone so far as to deny the resur-  
rection of Jesus Christ. But the apostle  
unforesees their doubts & insinuation by  
proving, even now in full what he ~~will~~  
have proclaimed to them before that ~~the~~  
the resurrection of Jesus Christ was an  
unassailable fact. It was the very foun-  
dation <sup>& evidence</sup> of the gospel message. The certainty  
of Christ's resurrection was the very reason  
why the gospel was preached. <sup>at all</sup> It was the  
monstrous fact which ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> exulted  
the apostles to ~~preach~~ <sup>preach</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>to the world that</sup> Christ  
and to persuade men to ~~believe in~~  
~~him~~ faith in him for the sinner's only  
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 <sup>his</sup> ~~given up~~ <sup>expired</sup> the ghost.  
With this death would have ended his  
cause & Kingdom ~~had~~ & his follow-

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



been silenced forever in hope & expectation  
ere a while have become extinct had  
he not risen from the dead or had  
he not appeared to them alive again <sup>in such a</sup>  
~~that~~ that they could see & handle him. <sup>manner</sup>  
But the evidence of the reality of his  
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 in-  
forming us that Jesus appeared alive.  
Not merely the eleven Apostles & the few  
chosen women who often ministered  
unto him, <sup>that</sup> saw him on various occasions,  
some being all saw him <sup>at once</sup> & other times he appeared  
only a ~~small number~~ <sup>to some of their number</sup>.  
Nay above five hundred brethren saw  
him on one occasion many of them being  
yet ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> alive, might still be inquired  
of. Nay himself too had seen him & heard  
him addressing him from Heaven so that  
himself was a <sup>competent</sup> witness qualified to attest & declare



the veracity of the Gospel message.

Having thus ~~established~~ made the most  
comprehensive statement of the authentic testi-  
mony of numbers to prove 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  
<sup>argues</sup> proves by most conclusive reasoning that  
since Christ has risen assuredly the  
hope of our resurrection <sup>too</sup> ~~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 thus, <sup>as generally with the text</sup> 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, <sup>of the Deity</sup> ~~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 <sup>since</sup> ~~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 argument for our resurrection.  
The Apostle further shows the same con-  
clusions, which we should arrive at by as-  
suming the resurrection, the hope of resurrection  
which man in general would be redeemed  
and the Christian believe above all who  
would even rescue himself from wretched-  
ness & other men, even in life is appointed.  
~~the faith is vain~~ Your faith is vain if  
~~without the resurrection~~ The Apostle tells his readers, if  
Christ be not risen, <sup>then</sup> ~~your~~ Christianity would  
be a vain thing, an unnecessary supposition  
of calculation <sup>only</sup> & a mere life more ~~of~~  
~~of sorrow of fear~~ than it is in its aspect of <sup>miserable</sup>  
sorrow, of grief & anguish of suffering  
and we & all mankind would only







Jesus and then though they <sup>tried</sup> to suppress  
the marvellous <sup>story</sup> tidings of the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ they <sup>made every</sup> attempt to deny  
it. <sup>when Jesus appeared to them</sup> You have crucified the Prince of life  
whom God has raised up from the dead, of whom  
such a similar language the Apostles and  
are now to the chief men of the Jews; though <sup>you have</sup> <sup>become the</sup>  
their living men is jeopardy, they could not <sup>betrayers</sup>  
<sup>desire to</sup> cease to bear witness of Christ & to announce  
non especially his resurrection. The Lord  
is risen indeed & was then joyful exclamation  
at the instant re-appearance among them. Then  
were the disciples glad when they saw the  
Lord. How happy were they when he first appeared  
among them, <sup>how happy were they</sup> <sup>when he first appeared</sup>  
~~when they saw him~~ <sup>then</sup> <sup>the marvellous</sup> <sup>signs and miracles</sup> <sup>he</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>truly</sup> <sup>alive</sup>  
alone alone, to bear his gracious salutation:  
Peace be unto you. How especially  
they assuage the absent & doubting Thomas <sup>that Jesus</sup>  
then mark with what expressions of gratitude <sup>was truly</sup>  
trust & joy & adoration the same doubting dis-  
ciple addresses his risen Lord when  
he was permitted to behold & touch him.  
Lord, thou hast a will & thou knowest that I  
am thy Lord & my God.



And then when filled with the Holy  
Ghost on the day of Pentecost with  
what fearlessness & courage with what  
~~language~~<sup>accents</sup> of gratitude & praise with  
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.~~ <sup>in</sup> Scrip-  
ture of the <sup>importance</sup> actuality of Christ's resurrection  
as well as of its immense importance.  
Alas! it is because numbers of professing  
Christians, contented with a new col-  
oured to the huts of the Gospel without  
taking a deep heart-felt interest in the  
glorious message of the great & glorious Love  
held out before 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 hear these  
things again & again & listen to them as if an  
old story which they long knew but which had  
no more or but little attraction for them, or  
they seem to think that the mere admission  
of the truth ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> faith, or not having made  
the gospel & the wonderful plan of man's re-  
demption 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 & adored <sup>once</sup> ~~adored~~ his dying  
love; if you have not been made sensible that  
you & your sins have nailed him there, if you  
have not been made conscious of your poisoning  
his blood & contemplating that Christ died  
lest you should die eternally; if you have  
not <sup>never taken on</sup> ~~account~~ contemplated these things;  
if his death has not been to you, <sup>your</sup> ~~your~~ heart



& soul an <sup>afflicting</sup> scene of sorrow & grief as well  
 as a proof of Divine mercy to excite you  
 to gratitude, you cannot rightly appreciate  
 or admire as you ought the blessing, the  
 comfort & hope 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 <sup>heartfelt</sup> ~~earnest~~  
 practical faith <sup>which</sup> ~~as~~ will enter into all  
 the great truths of the Gospel with <sup>earnest</sup> ~~deep~~ <sup>earnest</sup> ~~earnest~~  
 with <sup>earnest</sup> ~~earnest~~ interest. Hence I have enlarged  
 not so much on the historical proof of what is  
 placed beyond reasonable doubt but on the  
 sentiments with which the <sup>apostles & evangelists</sup> ~~apostles~~ <sup>taught</sup> ~~taught~~  
 their conviction & assurance of the truth. I do not  
 merely wish to convince you of what I trust some  
 of you are <sup>well convinced</sup> ~~altogether convinced~~ but I want if  
 possible to cause you to a new lively sense  
 of the great life of the believer. I want to  
 excite you to a new anxious inquiry into  
 the wonderful plan of redemption, the great dis-  
 play of love & mercy wisdom & power, of a new



glorified was presented as the first fruits of  
all believers from among men, in his <sup>his</sup> resurrection  
body. He was the first fruits even of them that slept  
otherwise, no man before him, rose of the dead  
or said by attainment to their perfect glory or in-  
surrection 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 till  
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, at once the incorruptible 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 our nature  
body to be  
nourished by  
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 resurrected in body promise  
to the believer is rarely thought or spoken of according to  
the language of the N. T. Nay yet that was the great

hope in which dwelt upon a coming written for by  
the Apostles. Just notice St Paul's language in one  
place (I have turned him to quote others) when speaking of his  
current striving. "If by any means I might attain unto

To this glorious  
and in immortal  
also the sacrament  
of the body & blood  
of Christ when  
as a germ of  
divine life.  
Mark the sign-  
of our Church is  
its prayer  
as the occasion  
the body of our  
Lord Jesus  
Christ present  
your body &  
soul unto  
contending  
life.

the resurrection of the dead" And again that I may  
know him & the power of his resurrection. "Then can be no  
doubt on the subject ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> that we shall all will attain  
to some sort of resurrection, but the resurrection of the just  
the glorious resurrection of the first born alone with the shining

for is evidently less meant. <sup>over</sup> <sup>than</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>second</sup> <sup>death</sup>  
No let us talk like the foolish men filled with the belief  
Even reason assists us in believing the Scripture promise of a  
resurrection of the body. For not every seed cast in the ground

though decaying, bring forth a new plant of its kind. does not each  
seed re-produce not any imageable thing, but its own  
kind & likeness why if so much more wisdom & omnipotence  
be displayed in incarnate nature why not in man the

image of God. To this resurrection then let us look  
forward with confidence & hope, while be the personal union of  
our living soul & body so little as forced to be separated  
are destined to be reunited to enjoy a life forever in the glory  
the glorious the felicity of the promised happy world to come.



to cause you to inquire into the ground of  
your hope. If you truly believe you are  
spiritually united with Christ & if so you will  
set your affections on things above, you and you  
will delight in spiritual heavenly 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 become 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-  
version of the Heavens, its members in the con-  
sistency 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 sheaf 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 made first as a thank-  
offering secondly to sanctify by giving the Lord a  
portion thereof of the harvest & invoke his blessing  
upon it. But he was also an earnest of the accom-  
ment of the harvest, the first ripe produce of the ground  
that the remainder was at the point of being ripe and  
only after the manner of waving before God the first  
fruits <sup>had been</sup> ~~had~~ gone through were the reapers permitted  
to gather in the general harvest. So Christ Jesus in  
his human body, as man, as one of us, but reserved