

ances take place in Jerusalem or in Galilee? On what day of the week did Jesus rise from the dead? To whom did Christ first appear after His resurrection? Did He appear first to Mary Magdalene or to the women? What was the order of the appearances of Jesus? These questions which have been raised will be answered in the course of our examination and close study of the New Testament accounts of the resurrection of Jesus.

Let us now turn to the New Testament accounts of the resurrection of Jesus. We have already noted how the resurrection is emphasized in many portions of the New Testament. However, there are six books which set forth the details of the resurrection of Jesus. These books in chronological order of their writing are I Corinthians, Mark, Matthew, Luke, Acts, and John.

We begin with a consideration of I Corinthians because it is not only an important source of information but it is also a source which is accepted as genuine by believers and unbelievers. Most modern critics accept I Corinthians as written by the apostle Paul. This epistle was written around A.D. 55, just twenty-five years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. In writing to the church of Corinth the apostle had to combat the error of some who denied the resurrection of the body. So in this remarkable chapter Paul appeals to the resurrection of Jesus. According to Paul the resurrection of Jesus was a bodily resurrection. Upon this great fact rests the future resurrection of believers. Paul stresses the great truth of the resurrection of Jesus and its importance for Christian faith and life.

In this great passage Paul is presenting a bit of primitive which comes from the Jerusalem Church. He is giving the Corinthian Christians precious information which he had received. He says, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died