

preached Jesus and the resurrection." (Acts 17:18) In Paul's contacts with individuals and small groups in Athens the resurrection was of interest. Paul in his leading message to the Athenians exhorts them to repentance "inasmuch as He (God) hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead." (Acts 17:31) When Paul's audience heard of the resurrection of the dead, "some mocked; but others said, 'We will hear thee concerning this yet again.'" (Acts 17:32)

The resurrection message rings throughout the epistles of Paul. In his earliest epistle, that to the Thessalonian Church, Paul writes, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." (I Thessalonians 4:14) Upon the great fact of the resurrection of Jesus, the One whom God raised from the dead (I Thessalonians 1:10), Paul bases the future bodily resurrection of believers. In writing to the Galatians Paul says, "Paul, an apostle (not from men, neither through man, but through Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead)." (Galatians 1:1) The fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians is a classic on the great theme of the resurrection. There we read that among the first things of the gospel there is the death and resurrection of Jesus. "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; He was buried; He hath been raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." (I Corinthians 15:3,4) According to Paul if the resurrection of Christ be not true, our preaching is vain, our faith is vain, the apostles were false witnesses, we are yet in our sins, all deceased Christians have "perished", and "we are of all men most pitiable." (I Corinthians 15:14-19) In II Corinthians 4:14 we read, "Knowing that He that raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also