

Good News, Bad News, Fake News

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Friends, let me go over the Message with you one final time—this Message that I proclaimed and that you made your own; this Message on which you took your stand and by which your life has been saved. (I'm assuming, now, that your belief was the real thing and not a passing fancy, that you're in this for good and holding fast.) The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that Jesus the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; that he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around (although a few have since died); that he then spent time with James and the rest of those he commissioned to represent him; and that he finally presented himself alive to *me*.

I. Fake News

1. New Atheism

- 1) *Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.*
- 2) *He was buried, most likely in a private tomb.*
- 3) *Soon afterward, the disciples were discouraged, bereaved, and despondent, having lost hope.*
- 4) *Jesus's tomb was found empty very soon after his interment.*
- 5) *The disciples had experiences that they believed were actual appearances of the risen Jesus.*
- 6) *Due to these experiences, the disciples' lives were thoroughly transformed, even being willing to die for this belief.*
- 7) *The proclamation of the resurrection took place very early, at the beginning of church history.*
- 8) *The disciples' public testimony and preaching of the resurrection took place in the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus had been crucified and buried shortly before.*
- 9) *The Gospel message centered on the death and resurrection of Jesus.*

- 10) *The traditional Sabbath was changed to Sunday as the primary day for gathering and worshipping.*
- 11) *James, the brother of Jesus and a former skeptic, was converted when, he believed, he saw the risen Jesus.*
- 12) *Just a few years later, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) became a Christian believer due to an experience that he believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus.*

2. Secularism

The Secular age is a combination of postmodernism, pluralism, critical theory and the advance of the sovereign self.

3. Relativism

4. Religion

II. Bad News

Romans 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short
That it cannot save;
Nor is His ear so dull
That it cannot hear.

² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.

John 8:24

²⁴ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

III. Good News

A. Christ died for our sins and rose again from the dead

1 Corinthians 15:3-5

The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that Jesus the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; that he presented himself alive to many witnesses

1 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

Romans 1:3-4

³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, ⁴ who was declared the Son of God with power by the

resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Romans 4:24-25

²⁴ but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ *He* who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

Romans 10:9-13

⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” ¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”