

## **1 Corinthians 15:1-11<sup>v</sup>**

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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### **<sup>v</sup> About the Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

In preparation for the next topic of discussion, the resurrection of the dead (15:12), Paul reminds the Corinthians of their common ground of belief. By quoting a traditional formulation of the essential proclamation about Christ (15:3-5), he recalls the basic creedal statements he taught them.

What particular verses of the “scriptures” (that is, the Old Testament) Paul means in verses 3 and 4 is not explicit. In general the statement “in accordance with the scriptures” expresses the conviction that these events took place according to God’s purpose. It was, however, the lived experience of the early Christians, not merely the evidence of the Old Testament, that shaped their belief.

Paul’s list of resurrection appearances can only tentatively be tallied with those in the gospel accounts. Finally, Paul lists the Lord’s appearance to him, “as to one untimely born,” perhaps referring to Paul’s belated

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revelation, or perhaps taking up a term of abuse applied to him by others. But whatever Paul's defects or his gifts, he preaches the same gospel as the other apostles, the same gospel that the Corinthians accepted.