

Sermon Summary
Last after Epiphany
10th February 2013

- The list in 1 Cor 15:1-11 seems to be of limited historical interest.
- We know of some of the witnesses from the gospels, others only from here
- Paul is showing that it wasn't just the 'apostles' who had seen the Risen Lord
- Significantly, he concludes the list with a reference to his own encounter on the road to Damascus.
- Paul, we need to remember, was fighting to retain his influence in the Corinthian congregation against people claim a higher 'apostolic' authority
- Paul is dismantling their claim that they alone, or even eye witnesses to the resurrection are the only authoritative witnesses.
- He, too, has authority.
- John will do the same thing in his gospel.
- He will question faith based on signs, and uses the appearance to Thomas to make the claim that those who believe without seeing are better believers than those who saw.
- In so doing, John, like Paul, opens the door for Christians in times and places far away from 1st century Palestine to claim an authoritative witness.
- This witness is mediated by:
 - Scripture
 - The Eucharist which makes Christ present and allows every Christian everywhere and in every generation to have a relationship of experience with the Risen Lord every bit as real as those enjoyed by those who witnessed his earthly life.

•
10th February 2013