

## **Proving the Resurrection of Christ**

### **4-4-21**

Paul declared to the Christians that if Christ is not risen from the dead, then we are still in our sins. His conversation in 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 was to remind them that our hope is established in the resurrection of Jesus. Without it, Paul declares us to be the most pitiable of people. What are the reasons we believe in the resurrection?

#### 1. The historical truth in the accounts – Luke 1:1-2

- Citing people and places
- Citing dates and events
- Unified witness of events

The Gospels bear out as historically true

#### 2. The Apostle Paul (as well as Jesus' brother James) – Galatians 1:13-14

- Not a witness of the event
- An ardent anti-Christian
- Rejects everything for Christ

Paul is the ultimate hostile witness

#### 3. The Empty Tomb – Matthew 28:11-13

- A critical point of Christianity
- Jewish and Roman leaders involved
- NOT ONCE denied by anyone!

The empty tomb is an undeniable truth

#### 4. The Devotion of the Disciples to the Law of Moses – 2 Timothy 3:14-15

- The NT are writings by men well versed in the OT
- Clearly strong Mosaic foundations
- A new false religion is unimaginable

Mosaic devotion means validity

#### 5. The Testimony of the Women to the resurrection – Luke 24:1-11

- All four accounts related that the first witnesses were women
- Women were not considered legal testimony
- If it were fabricated, women would not have been the witnesses

Unique witnesses dismiss fabrication

#### 6. Testimony Outside the Scriptures – Luke 24:18

- Josephus wrote of the resurrection
- Absence of Roman denial
- Absence of fallen believer's denial

Opportunities to deny it are never taken

#### 7. The Foreign Concept of Resurrection – 1 John 3:2

- Many believed in resurrection
- No one believed in changed body
- Evidenced in not knowing Him

The resurrected body was something new

8. The Conviction of the Disciples - 1 John 1:1-2

- Totally vested in the resurrection
- Prepared to die for it
- Prepared to live for it

Jesus' disciples believed what they saw

9. The initial doubt of the Disciples – Mark 16:11

- At first they did not believe
- Only Jesus' enemies remembered
- Took some time for them to believe

Jesus' disciples reasonably doubted

10. The Multitude of Witnesses – 1 Corinthians 15:8

- Over 500 people saw Jesus alive
- The explosion of Christianity
- Prepared to live for it

Christianity came from someone

While there are many other points to make, these points establish the idea that it is beyond a reasonable doubt that Jesus arose from the dead. If we accept this to be true, what does that mean? First, it means that the God of the Bible is Real. This means that the Bible is true, and that everything in the Bible is true. Second, this means that Jesus was God in the Flesh. Thus we can believe it is true that God died on the Cross, and then God overcame death. He did this for us; thus, God's love is unimaginable. Finally, it confirms that there is life after death. This leads us to believe that there is a judgment, that God means everything He says, and that we can choose to be with Him.