

## The Primacy and Proof of Christ's Resurrection (or, Did it Really Happen and Does it Really Matter?)

Week 1 | The Primacy and Proof of Christ's Resurrection (or, Did it Really Happen and Does it Really Matter?)

Week 2 | The Doctrinal Substance of Christ's Resurrection (or, What Does it Mean?)

Week 3 | The Practical Implications of Christ's Resurrection (or, Why Do I Care?)

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

### The Primacy of the Resurrection of Christ (or, Does it Really Matter?)

- Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead. -Romans 1:4

- Bodily; in Glory; not resuscitation
- Part of the Gospel (Good News) by which we are saved (1 Cor 15:1-4)
- The Cross and Resurrection are one saving event (no salvation without faith in the Resurrection)

- Romans 10:9-10

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

- The Resurrection Matters for Christian Doctrine

- Gospel; justification; judgment; glory; His return
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-26<sup>a</sup> (Especially: vv. 14 + 17)

- The Resurrection Matters for World Evangelization

- The claim of exclusivity over and against all others (true or false)
  - If false = let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die! -1 Corinthians 15:32
  - If true = you have to accept all that He said
  - The issue is not whether you like His teaching or not—the issue is did He rise from the dead?
  - Out of the realm of philosophy and into the realm of historicity

- The Resurrection affirms or denies the work and position of Christ—Christianity stands or falls with this singular doctrine

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### The Proof of the Resurrection of Christ (or, Did it Really Happen?)

- Empty Tomb
- Eyewitness Accounts
- Every Changed Life

### The empty tomb of Christ is proof of His resurrection from the dead

- Matthew 28:1-8 (Empty Tomb Options: stolen; hidden; revived; wrong tomb)
- The conditions around the tomb (Matthew 27:62-66)
  - The guards = 4-16 men; threat of death (Matthew 28:11-15)
  - The seal = execution by upside down crucifixion (guts ran into your throat)
  - The stone = 1.5 to 2 ton (Matthew 27:60) (Mark 15:46; 16:4)
- The cowering disciples did not (could not) steal it (Matthew 28:11-15)
- The tenacious opposition did not present the body (admitted tomb was empty) (Spread story = Matthew 28:15)
- In their attempt to lie about and cover-up the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Jews were actually confessing that the tomb was indeed empty, that there was no body in it!
- The body was never found—the tomb is still empty—nobody ever claimed otherwise!
- If the Christians and their Jewish opponents, both agreed that the tomb was empty, we have little choice but to accept the empty tomb as historical fact.
- Tom Anderson, former president of the California Trial Lawyers Association and co-author of the Basic Advocacy Manual of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, says: "Let's assume that Christ did not rise from the dead. Let's assume that the written accounts of His appearances to hundreds of people are false. I want to pose a question: With an event so well publicized, don't you think that it's reasonable that one historian, one eyewitness, one antagonist would record for all time that he had seen Christ's body: 'Listen, I saw that tomb- it was not empty! Look, I was there, Christ did not rise from the dead. As a matter of fact, I saw His body.' The silence of history is deafening when it comes to testimony against the resurrection."<sup>1</sup>

But it is not just that the tomb was empty...

### The eyewitness accounts of the risen Christ is proof of His resurrection from the dead

- The women as witnesses ([Matthew 28:8-10](#))
  - They had seen Him in the tomb ([Luke 23:55](#))
  - They did not assume He was risen, but rather hidden ([John 20:1-2](#))
  - Mary Magdalene ([John 20:11-18](#); [Mark 16:9-11](#))
- The disciples
- The 500+
  - [1 Corinthians 15:1-6](#)
  - 6 minutes of testimony each = 50 hours of eyewitness accounts (lopsided trial!)<sup>2</sup>
- Hostile Witnesses
  - Saul of Tarsus and James the half-brother ([John 7:5](#))

But it is not just that people saw him...

### Every change life is proof that Christ rose from the dead

- In Jerusalem (least likely place for Christianity to start if Christ not risen)
  - Preached resurrection in proximity of tomb ([Acts 2:22-41](#); [4:15,26](#))
  - [Acts 2:41](#) = about **3,000** souls; [Acts 4:4](#) = **10,000** men
  - Stopped sacrifices, Saturday worship, ceremonial law, etc etc
  - A body would have ended it all
- To the world!
- The cowering disciples (martyred)
- Peter the denier
- James the non-believing half-brother ([John 7:5](#))
- Saul the persecutor (Paul the Apostle)
- Me and you ([PHOTO](#))

#### Application:

- Jesus and all that is claimed is real and true—He is risen and alive!
  - [Job 19:25-27 \(NLT\)](#)  
But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!
  - Jesus in [Revelation 1:17-18 \(NLT\)](#)  
Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.
- Therefore, you are doing the right thing in following Him
  - [1 Peter 1:3-4 \(NLT\)](#)  
All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation and we have a priceless inheritance...
- So follow Him fully! Obey Him! Live for His glory and not your own!
  - [Romans 6:8-14 \(NLT\)](#)  
And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and He will never die again. Death no longer has any power over Him. When He died, He died once to break the power of sin. But now that He lives, He lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master...
- You can trust Him absolutely and ultimately! (His Resurrection tells us this:)
  - [Isaiah 25:7-9](#)  
God will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears. In that day the people will proclaim, "This is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation!"