

### This is not just a happy ending to an intriguing, tragic story

- **Core** to our faith
- **Essential** for our salvation
- **Foundational** for our lives (temp/eternal)
- **Defensible** as an historic event
- **Indomitable** in its effects

### The Resurrection of Christ is a core doctrine of the Christian faith

- The identity of Christ: [Romans 1:1-4](#), NLT
- The Good News about Christ: [1 Corinthians 15:1-4](#), NIV
- The validity of the work of Christ: [1 Corinthians 15:17-19](#), NLT
- The appropriation of the work of Christ: [Romans 10:9](#), NLT
  - = **There is no Christianity without the Resurrection of Christ (literally)**
    - It would have ended at the Cross—and by ended I mean be over and dead
    - Christianity is the Gospel and there is no Gospel without the Resurrection
      - **Justification** is the declaration made by God that we are not guilty but righteous before Him through faith in Jesus
      - [Romans 4:25](#), NIV

### The Resurrection of Christ is essential for our salvation

- Without it we are not saved
  - [Ephesians 2:1, 4-6](#), NLT
  - [1 Peter 1:3](#), NLT
- Without it we do not have new life

### The Resurrection of Christ is foundational for our lives

- Meaning because of it we are also **raised**
  - **Now, by faith**
    - [Romans 6:4](#), NLT
  - **Then, in body**
    - [1 Corinthians 15:19-23](#) and [53-57](#), NLT

### The Resurrection of Christ is defensible as an historic event

- Notice there was an attempt made by Rome to safeguard the body ([Matthew 27:62-66](#))
  - **"Make the tomb as secure as you know how"** –Pilate (v. 65)
    - Roman **guard** is 4 to 16 men (trained killing machines charged with threat of death if they fail)
    - Roman **seal** (to violate it was punishable by upside down crucifixion)
      - Are we to believe that Peter et al. going to overcome these security measures?
- Notice there was an empty tomb and a missing body
  - A plot was devised to explain the missing body ([Matthew 28:11-15](#))
  - In their attempt to lie about and cover-up the resurrection, the opposition was actually confessing that the tomb was indeed empty!
  - [If the Christians and their Jewish and Roman 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>](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Josh McDowell, *The Resurrection Factor* (San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, 1981), 66.

## **A dead body was never produced—on the contrary the resurrected Jesus was seen by many**

- The women as witnesses (**Matthew 28:8-10**)
  - They had seen Jesus body laid in the tomb (**Luke 23:55**)
  - They did not assume He was risen, but rather missing (**John 20:1-2, 14**)
    - **The point is**, they were not in on some plot... there was no plot because they did not expect His resurrection
    - The angel had to explain to them what had happened (**Mt 28:6**)
    - Then they saw Him (**v. 9**)
- The disciples at Galilee (**Matthew 28:17**)
- The 500+
  - **1 Corinthians 15:4-7**, NLT
  - 6 minutes of testimony each = 50 hours of eyewitness accounts (lopsided trial!)<sup>2</sup>
- **The Apostles 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—but there was no dead body—Christ was risen in glory!
- **The continuing witness and martyrdom of the disciples** (for a lie?)

There is no other explanation for the **empty** tomb, **eyewitness** accounts, **every** changed life, **Apostolic** message

- = You can be confident in the assertions of Scripture about Jesus' resurrection
- That is great news!

## **The Resurrection of Christ is indomitable in its effects (indomitable = impossible to subdue or defeat)**

- More powerful than the grave
  - **Acts 2:24**, NIV
- More powerful than our guilt
  - **Romans 8:34**, NLT
- More powerful than sin
  - **Romans 6:5-9**, NLT
- More powerful than the loss of loved ones
  - **1 Thessalonians 4:14**, NLT
- More powerful than our fears
  - **Revelation 1:17b-18**, NLT

The power of Christ's resurrection is the power that forms and sustains the Christian life!

- **Ephesians 1:19-20**, NLT

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<sup>2</sup> Josh McDowell, *The Resurrection Factor* (San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, 1981), 72.