

We Believe
In
The Resurrection
Matthew 28:1-10

1 "After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here, he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, he has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you. 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. Greetings he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, there they will see me."

Intro: I have come to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever thrust upon the minds of humanity: now that is quite an opener for Easter Sunday!

OR

It is the most fantastic and profound fact in all of history!

Jesus had three basic credentials: 1. The impact of his life, through his miracles and teachings. 2. Do you fulfilled prophecy

in his life. 3. And last but not least, his resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus Christ and Christianity stand or fall together.

William Lane Craig said this about the resurrection: “Without the believe in the resurrection the Christian faith could not have come into being. The disciples would have remained crushed and defeated men. Even had they continued to remember Jesus as their beloved teacher, his crucifixion would have forever silenced any hope of his being the Messiah. The cross would have remained the sad and shameful end of his career. The origin of Christianity therefore hinges on the believe of the early disciples that God had raised Jesus from the dead.” To put it in short form, without the physical resurrection of Christ there is no Christianity. His teachings would be lost, his miracles would be reduced to folklore and his life to the imagination of history.

To me Christianity stands or falls with the resurrection. Even the apostle Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 15:14** ***“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”***

What are the implications if Christ was not resurrected? According to W.J Sparrow, “If the resurrection is not a historical fact, then the power of death remains and unbroken, and with it the effects of sin, and the significance of Christ’s death remains and believers are still in their sins, precisely where they were before they heard of Jesus’ name.”

To sum it up in one word: hopeless.

But the greatest evidence that Jesus was resurrected is in the claims of Jesus himself. Jesus not only predicted his resurrection

but also emphasize that his rising from the dead would be the sign to authenticate his claim to be the Messiah.

Matthew 16:21 "From that time Jesus Christ begin to show to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."

Matthew 17:9 "Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

Matthew 17:22-23 "Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and the third day he will be raised up. And they were exceedingly sorrowful."

Matthew 26:32 "but after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

John 2:18-22 "The Jews answered and said to him, what sign do you show to us, since you do these things? Jesus answered and said to them, destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then the Jews said, it has taken 46 years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days? But he was speaking of the Temple of his body. Therefore, when he had risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this to them and they believe the scripture and the word which Jesus had said."

The last and only evidence of the resurrection is the lives that were changed because of it.

Jesus's brother James was one of the most significant changes of them all. Before the resurrection he despised all that his brother

stood for. But after the resurrection James was found with the other disciples preaching the gospel. James describes himself as a bond servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus made himself known to Thomas also after the resurrection. Thomas was having trouble believing that Jesus had risen from the dead and wanted proof. The Bible tells us that Jesus appeared to Thomas and showed him his wounds. After seeing Jesus, Thomas said, **"My Lord and my God!"** Thomas made an about face after seeing the Lord risen from the grave. He went on to die a martyr's death.

I'm sure you've heard the expression, "the proof is in the pudding." A changed life is always the proof that the son of God did what he said he was going to do. The changed life that I am referring to comes by being born again. One of the Pharisees named Nicodemus came to Jesus one night and Jesus told Nicodemus that if you want to see the kingdom of God "you must be born again."

The question is how do you become born again? The answer is found in ***John 3:16-19*** ***"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not Perish but have ever lasting life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of Gods one and only son. This is the verdict, light has come into the world, but people love darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."***

Isaiah 53:5 ***"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."***

In closing, the resurrection of Jesus Christ not only has brought us newness of life by for giving us our sins, it also binds of our wounds and set us free from guilt and shame. I'm going to invite you today to receive the risen Savior. Would you please stand with me?