

I Believe In The Resurrection

I. **Luke 20.27:** “Now there came to Him some of the Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection)”

A. It is becoming increasingly popular in our modern and sophisticated world to believe in a Jesus-based Christianity without a Jesus-_____ resurrection

1. Modern-day Theologians

- a. “What is the metaphoric truth of Easter?’ The real power of Easter is the transformation that, as Christians, we believe continues to happen in people's lives....If Easter is about proving the veracity of some historical event that happened 2,000 years ago, that misses the point.” (Rev. Steve Huber of St. Columba's Episcopal Church)
- b. “The gospels’ resurrection stories about Jesus are not factual accounts, but rather made up ones to support the theological agendas of their authors. They were “recorded in order that you may hold the faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this faith you may possess life by his name” (John 20:31). The gospel accounts are not veridical history. They are myths.” (R.C. Symes, Anglican Theologian)

2. Thomas Jefferson

- a. “Abstracting what is really his from the rubbish in which it is buried, easily distinguished by its lustre from the dross of his biographers, and as separable from that as the diamond from the dunghill... The establishment of the innocent and genuine character of this benevolent moralist, and the rescuing it from the imputation of imposture, which has resulted from artificial systems... e.g. The immaculate conception of Jesus, his deification, the creation of the world by him, his miraculous powers, his resurrection and visible ascension, his corporeal presence in the Eucharist, the Trinity; original sin, atonement, regeneration, election, orders of Hierarchy, etc., invented by ultra-Christian sects, unauthorized by a single word ever uttered by him, is a most desirable object” (Thomas Jefferson, Works of Thomas Jefferson)

3. Christianity without a resurrection is _____

- a. It is like having apple pie without apples, chocolate ice cream without chocolate, or baseball without a baseball
- b. It is _____ religion without a resurrected Jesus!

4. We are not followers of Christ because we follow the ethical or philosophical teachings of a dead man – we follow the _____ Himself!

II. What Is The Resurrection?

A. *The resuscitation of a* _____

1. The resurrection is not a metaphorical _____ of the Christian faith

- a. Eyewitnesses to Jesus’ _____ after the resurrection

B. Resurrection requires _____

1. Some would attempt to explain the eyewitness accounts by saying that Jesus was never _____ dead, but fainted and came back to consciousness

a. Jesus most assuredly was dead

(1) The Roman Soldier's Testimony – John 19.31-33

(2) The Roman Governor's Testimony – Mark 15.43-45

C. Why I Believe In The Resurrection

1. Exhibit 1: The Empty _____

a. If Jesus has not resurrected, then all anyone had to do to disprove it was to was to _____ the body!

b. This one fact of _____ has yet to have been answered satisfactorily

(1) It may be _____, but it cannot be sufficiently explained apart from the Resurrection

2. Exhibit 2: _____ Eyewitnesses Accounts

a. Real people, known by real people saw Jesus _____ after his death

(1) Matthew 28.18-20

(2) 1 Corinthians 15.1-6

3. Exhibit 3: The Existence of the _____

a. The radical transformation of that _____ bunch of men and women into what has now become a global reality cannot be explained apart from the Resurrection

III. Therefore, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the _____ of all things

A. It is the Center of our _____ Reality

a. Our entire reality of faith _____ on the Resurrection of Jesus

(1) 1 Corinthians 15.12-15

b. We have put all of our Easter Eggs in one basket!

B. It is the Center of our _____ Reality

a. The entire bio-physical reality of our molecular-based cosmos _____ in the person of Jesus Christ

(1) Colossians 1.15-18

b. 'cohere' – 'be _____, to form a whole' ('sticks together')

(1) "The Strong Nuclear Force (also referred to as the strong force) is one of the four basic forces in nature (the others being gravity, the electromagnetic force, and the weak nuclear force). As its name implies, it is the strongest of the four... Its main job is to hold together the subatomic particles of the nucleus"

c. The resurrected Jesus is the 'strong force' of our cosmic reality

C. It is the Center of our _____ Reality

a. The Resurrection of Jesus _____ everything

(1) 1 Peter 1.3

b. Our entire philosophy of life is now based in a living _____!

(1) 'hope' – 'anticipation of things to come with _____'

c. Our philosophy of life is now characterized by an _____ *possibility of life*

(1) Possibility where there is impossibility

(2) Life where there was death

(3) Strength where there is weakness

(4) Sight where there is blindness

(5) Courage where there is discouragement

(6) Peace where there is torment

(7) Joy where there is sorrow

(8) Forgiveness where there is unforgiveness

(9) Love where there is hate

(10) Righteousness where there is sin

(11) Freedom where there is bondage

(12) A new beginning where there is the end

D. There are some who say there is no resurrection—I am not one of them—I believe in the Resurrection