

WHY I BELIEVE

Straight Answers to Honest Questions
about God, the Bible and Christianity

Why I Believe
in the Resurrection

Part 2

The Question :

Do you have to throw your "brains in the trash" to believe in Christ?

The Journey :

Is there intellectually feasible evidence to support a faith in the Jesus of the Bible with His claims of deity, eternal life, and absolute truth?

The Central Issue :

Christianity rises and falls on the truthfulness and reality of the resurrection.

16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:16-19 (NASB)



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7 Reasons Why I Believe in the Resurrection :

1. Did Jesus really exist?

- Biblical manuscripts: quality and quantity
- 25,000 New Testament documents that authenticate the reality of Jesus Christ
- External verification: Josephus (Jewish historian), Pliny, Tacitus (Roman historians)

2. What was Jesus really like?

- Friend and foe agree: great man, moral teacher
- Claimed sinless life
- Affirmed by history and impact

John 8:46

3. The works of Jesus went unchallenged.

- Fact of miracles, feeding 5000 not disputed
- Eyewitness accounts validated miracles
- Critics never claimed He didn't perform miracles; they questioned His source of power to do them

Matthew 12:24

4. Who did Jesus actually claim to be?

- His own claim
- God's claim
- His followers' claim
- His enemies' claim
- External sources' claim – Pliny, AD 111
- By fulfillment of over 700 Old Testament prophecies

John 14:6

Mark 9:7

Mark 8:27-30

John 10:33



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5. Did Jesus really die?

- At the time both friend and foe thought He died
- His flogging, beating, and crucifixion
- Medical evidence: water and blood indicate puncture of pericardium
- By burial preparation: 70 pounds of spices and linen

6. His burial was public and secure.

- Joseph of Arimathea's tomb: a high-profile member of the Sanhedrin
- Roman guards
- Roman seal
- Size of tombstone: would take 20 men to roll away
- Penalty of death for guards sleeping

7. Could Jesus' resurrection possibly be true?

- Predicted by Old Testament prophets hundreds of years earlier
- Jesus predicted it openly and repeatedly
- Appeared to over 500 eyewitnesses in 12 different locations over 40 days
- Transformation of the disciples
- Conversion of Saul of Tarsus
- Transformation of Roman empire and the world
- Best legal minds: the evidence is conclusive!
- My testimony: "He changed my life."



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What does this mean for you?

1. It **VALIDATES** Jesus' claim that He is the way, the truth, and the life. *John 14:6*
2. It gives you absolute **HOPE** for the future. *John 14:19*
3. It offers spiritual life **RIGHT NOW!**

For God so loved _____ that He gave His one
your name
and only Son, that if _____ believes in Him,
your name
_____ shall not perish but have eternal life.
your name
For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn
_____, but to save _____ through
your name *your name*
Him.

John 3:16-17 (NIV)

4. If you believe Jesus rose from the dead, you have all the **POWER** you need to be a Christian who lives like a Christian by His grace.



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