

Palm ⇒ Easter | Look: Backward (Remember) | Inward (Remind) | Forward (Invite) | Upward (God)

**The Resurrection is the very center of the Christian faith – w/o...Christianity Crumbles**

**Big Foot – Loch Ness – Kracken – Slender Man – Jersey Devil**

What do these things have in common? Believed on ridiculous evidence | Uncredible and Unverifiable  
Christianity is different | **BI - The Evidence for the Resurrection is Clear**

The resurrection is one of the most well-established events in history – **We have living proof...**

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Someone makes a claim...ask...is it important to prove? 'I like cereal' – 'Prove it' | **This one matter's**

Paul's day – Everyone held supernatural worldview...believed in life after death

- Greeks & Romans...not bodily resurrection | Body = prison for soul...set free at death

Denying the reality of the resurrection remains a central problem in contemporary culture

**Conspiracy – Stolen or Displaced | Wrong Tomb – Lost | Apparent Death | Mass Hallucination**

**The bodily resurrection, of Christ, brings us to the very center of the Christian faith | Lynch Pin**

Christ's death & resurrection...actual space & time...is a bona fide historical event...Scripture Evidence

**Four reasons for our belief in Christ's Resurrection – Both what it rests on...and why it matters**

### 1. **We Believe in Christ's Resurrection Because of: Our Transformation (1-2)**

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Paul is reminding them...again...of what? The gospel they've received – Academic? Transformation

**Simple yet compelling truth: The Gospel if Believed Changes Lives**

**One reception – Ongoing 'being saved' – UNFINISHED PEOPLE | Changed and Changing**

You'll see that this is split into two camps – Those who believed...whose who believed in vain

- 'Unless you believed in vain' – Warning...not about losing salvation...having a non-saving faith
  - 'Vain' = Heedlessly or Rashly...without effect...worthless

Lord continued to warn: Parable of the Sower – Nets – Houses & Foundations – Gates and Paths

Person can have an emotional or intellectual superficial human faith...accepts as 'Get out of Hell'

But has not penetrated into life – New Desires – New Striving – New Patterns for Living = Vain

**Red Delicious – Beautiful – Uniformed – Shiny – Not delicious...Trash Apple | INSIDE MATTERS**

Easy to receive...tough to stand & hold fast | **Sin – Stuff – Suffering** | Distinguishes belief & vain belief

**Because the Gospel holds us...we hold fast to the gospel...I won't let go | Transformation = Evidence**

### 2. **We Believe in Christ's Resurrection Because of: Scripture's Proclamation (3-4)**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

**Bury the Lead Joke** – 'First importance' – Other things that are important...this is first | Creed

Christ's death & resurrection are inseparable – Without the latter...former has not eternal significance

**A dead man doesn't defeat death | Sin & Death had to be conquered...Jesus conquered through life!**

**Why three days? God said! Isaiah 52-53 | Ps. 16 – 22- 110 | Matt. 12:40 – 16:21 – 27:63 | John 2:19**

- Jesus died Friday, Nisan 14...Passover lamb sacrificed | **Jewish Tradition...Soul 3 days...departed**

**How is this evidence?** Everything in the Bible, thousands of years, building to this event!

**Ever wondered if Jesus will really come back?** Thousands of years...will the Messiah really come

**According to the Scriptures...the Messiah would come...He came**

**According to the Scriptures the Messiah will return...He will**

### 3. **We Believe in Christ's Resurrection Because of: Witnesses' Testimony (5-8)**

<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

As the resurrection is a historical fact – it can be proved by historical evidence – People saw it  
'Cephas' – Peter | 'Twelve' | 'James' ½ brother | Paul | 500 other dudes...+ Unmentioned women

**'I saw what happened officer...2'** – Witness testimony, uncontradicted, produces conviction

- Stated as truth – Disciples were not psychological or pathological
- Disciples never venerated the tomb...because it was empty | Traded Saturday for Sunday

**Peter = Denied | James = Unbeliever | Paul = Hostile | Upper Room Cowards to Courageous Martyrs  
Endurance of the church through 2000 years is evidence of His resurrection reality**

- Church has survived skepticism, persecution, heresy, unfaithfulness, and disobedience

Believe in Christ's Resurrection Because of: Our Transformation – Scriptures Proclamation – Witness

### 4. **We Believe in Christ's Resurrection because of: God's Mercy (9-11)**

<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Jesus is the living proof of the resurrection – Our revive souls are living proof of His mercy  
'Untimely Born' – Private | Abnormal - unexpected – sudden – supernatural | Missed Jesus ministry

- **When this happened...where was Paul going** – Acts 9 - 'Persecuted the church of God'

- **Look at the first word of v. 10 = 'But'** – Change of direction...who changed his direction? **Jesus**

**His past: Persecuted | Present – Apostle | How – By the grace of God | Paul = Powerful Evidence**

- 'least of the apostles' – Acknowledges his inferiority...because he had persecuted Christians
- **Ever since Adam people have not been taking responsibility for their sin | Paul = how to respond**

- He admitted the awfulness of his sin and recognized how gracious God has been

**Hubris into Humility | If you make an excuse for you sin...your sins will not be excused**

- 'I worked harder' – Paul turns his admission of weakness into opportunity to magnify God's grace

- God's grace did not lead to sloth but greater effort and substantial accomplishment

**Paul views the logical outcome of grace as a motivation for service**

- Our value is not in what we do for God but in what Christ has done for us

- 'Whether then it was I or they' – All the apostles agree - Doesn't matter who the instrument is...

**This is my life verse – Maybe it should be yours...all of this zeal because Paul believed in resurrection**

Christian belief without the doctrine of bodily resurrection proves worthless

Paul makes it clear that the bodily resurrection of Christ is not folklore or fiction...it's fact

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