

Series: “Cold Case Christianity” by J. Warner Wallace

Sermon: “An Ancient Death-Scene Investigation”

Primary Text: 1 Corinthians 15

Book: Chapter 2

Discussion guide:

- What is deductive reasoning?
- Have/do you ever use(d) this? if so, how?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
 - Why is this testimony so important?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
 - How would you summarize Paul’s point?
 - Why is the resurrection so central to Christianity?
- In the book Wallace presents 4 “minimal facts” – what does he mean by this title?
 - Jesus died on the cross and was buried.
 - Jesus’s tomb was empty, and no one ever produced His body.
 - Jesus’s disciples believed they saw Jesus resurrected from the dead.
 - Jesus’s disciples were transformed following their alleged resurrection observations.
- How do you react to the notion that even staunch critics of Christianity accept the historicity of these facts?
- Wallace discusses several alternative theories that have been suggested over the years, discuss each and why they are implausible (this can be found in chapter 2 of the book)
 - The disciples were wrong about Jesus’ death.
 - The disciples lied about the resurrection.
 - The disciples were delusional.
 - The disciples were fooled by an imposter.
 - The disciples were influenced by limited spiritual sightings.
 - The disciple’s observations were distorted later.
- The final possibility presented is “The Disciples were accurately reporting the resurrection of Jesus.”
 - Why does this best explain the minimal facts?
 - Why do many people who acknowledge this is the most sufficient option still can’t accept it?
 - Why are people so resistant to the notion of the supernatural?
- How does belief in God open the possibility of the supernatural?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-57
 - How does the resurrection change our lives today?
 - Timothy Keller says that if Jesus rose from the dead “...we can’t live our lives any way we want. It also meant we don’t have to be afraid of anything, not Roman swords, not cancer, nothing. If Jesus rose from the dead, it changes everything.”
 - How is this so?
 - The Hymn “Because He Lives” declares “Life is worth the living just because He lives.”

- How is this so?