

Easter Sunday - 2020

Easter – Past Event or Present Reality? – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

- I. The death and burial of Jesus were snapshots of past events (v. 3-4)
- II. The resurrection of Jesus is a completed action with present results (v. 4, 12)
- III. The Resurrection of Jesus is the separating fact of Christianity and makes our lives worthwhile (v. 2, 10, 17, 58)

1. This entire sermon was built upon verb tenses. Did you find any of the information regarding the verbs used for “died,” “buried,” and “raised” to be interesting or different from what you have heard before?
2. Did you find it more difficult to celebrate Easter in this fashion this year? If so, why? What about it was difficult for you?
3. What present result do you appreciate most about the resurrection?
4. If the resurrection of Jesus separates Christianity as the only religion with a living savior, why do so many people believe in other religions?
5. Who do you need to pray for that the truth of resurrection will be a reality in his/her life?

Being the separating fact of Christianity, the resurrection is often attacked by non-believers. Dr. Gary Habermas developed what is called the Minimal Facts of the Resurrection. There are 12 that are agreed upon by most secular scholars, 4 (highlighted) being agreed upon by 99%. Here they are in list form:

1. Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.
2. He was buried, most likely in a private tomb.
3. Soon afterward, the disciples were discouraged, bereaved, and despondent, having lost hope.
4. Jesus’ tomb was found empty very soon after his interment.
5. The disciples had experiences that they believed were actual appearances of the risen Jesus.
6. Due to these experiences, the disciples’ lives were thoroughly transformed, even being willing to die for this belief.
7. The proclamation of the resurrection took place very early, at the beginning of church history.
8. The disciples’ public testimony and preaching of the resurrection took place in the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus had been crucified and buried shortly before.
9. The Gospel message centered on the death and resurrection of Jesus.
10. Sunday was the primary day for gathering and worshipping.

11. James, the brother of Jesus and former skeptic, was converted when, he believed, he saw the risen Jesus.
12. Just a few years later, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) became a Christian believer due to an experience that he believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus.”<sup>[1]</sup>

Check these out at this website: <https://dissectingjesus.com/tag/gary-habermas-12-minimal-facts/>

The websites contain the sources for the article as well as the source for this list.

Prayer – “Lord, help us to live in the present reality of your resurrection. Please allow me to understand the value of my life comes from you and your resurrection.”