

Living Proof: The Power of the Resurrection...

Since the beginning of time, mankind has been in search of truth. Why am I here? What is life? Where did life begin? Is there a God? What is true and real? And, where is the proof? These questions of life have been asked by every generation to ever live. Our faith and eternity find their source and depend on the accuracy of the Bible. Indeed, all of our hope is written in Scripture.

Jesus said in John 17:17, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

But, how can we know for sure that it is true? The proof is abundant in the ancient texts, physical evidence in archaeology, and in the living proof of those who have been its witnesses. We will search all of this evidence and see that it is true. But, the best evidence is your life transformed as living proof that Jesus lives. Let's find that truth together!

The Bible is True – Jesus Really Died.

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23:44-46)

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. (John 19:33-34)

43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. 45 And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. (Mark 15:43-45)

The Bible is True – Jesus Really Rose.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." (Luke 24:1-7)

11 While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the

money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. (Matthew 28:11-15)

The Bible is True – You are Living Proof.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

Jesus is the only Way, Truth, and Life. Choose Him today!

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – The evidence is immense and indisputable that Jesus died a brutal death. The Bible is clear He died that death in YOUR place. That that settle in your spirit. How do you feel/respond?

Tuesday – Those guarding the tomb feared for their lives. Stories were concocted to sow seeds of doubt. How does the world try to convince people (you) today that Jesus was not “real”?

Wednesday – The empty tomb was indisputable, but what really happened? The answer to that question is the foundation of your faith and eternity. What do you believe happened? How? Why?

Thursday – Paul mentions Jesus' appearances to the disciples and 500 more after the resurrection. How have you seen Him? What is your personal story about Him? Who needs to hear that story?

Friday – You are living proof of a Living God. You are living proof of a Loving God. Your life should demonstrate the love God showed by dying on the cross and should be a demonstration of God's love to those around you. How are you demonstrating God's love in this world? How can they see Him in you today?