

"FAKE NEWS EASTER"

RESURRECTION SUNDAY 2023

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I. Introduction of Topic

- A. Easter Legends
- B. Effective Lies
 - 1. Beneficial: Make sure that the lie benefits you.
 - 2. Broad: Don't get specific with names or places.
 - 3. Back-ups: Get a credible source to back you up.
 - 4. Busy-bodies: Anticipate annoying fact finders.
 - 5. Bail: If the lie goes bad, bail and save your rear.

II. Into the Texts (e.g., 1 Corinthians 15:1-19)

- A. Reliable Facts: There are early and reliable records written by Christians (and non-Christians).
- B. Relational Followers: Jesus' disciples claimed:
 - 1. Jesus taught that he was God in the flesh and performed miracles that prove it.
 - 2. Jesus died on a cross in front of the public and he did so for the sins of the world.
 - 3. Jesus' dead carcass was buried in a popular tomb that was guarded and 3 days later it was missing.
 - 4. Jesus was seen walking around the streets saying he had been raised from the dead.
 - 5. Jesus rose from the dead proving that he alone had the power to forgive sin, that God vindicated his message and that he was divine.
 - 6. Jesus commissioned his followers to share his message and he ascended into heaven, promising to return at a future date.

III. Is it True?

- A. Was it beneficial?
- B. Was it specific?
- C. Were the sources credible in their context?
- D. Did fact finders prove it wrong?
- E. Did the witnesses save themselves?

IV. Implications in Time

- A. Reasonableness – There is a CASE for Christianity
- B. Repentance – There is a CALL to Christianity
- C. Restoration – There is CURE in Christianity

TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

Questions for personal and group reflection

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-58. How can a Christian avoid believing the gospel in vain? (1 Cor.15:1-2). How did Christ's life fulfill the Scriptures (v.3).
2. What are the key points of the gospel? (1 Cor.15:3-8). Why did Paul emphasize these facts?
3. Why did Paul feel unworthy to be called an Apostle and yet still felt comfortable calling himself one? (1 Cor.15:8-10).
4. How would you describe, in your own words, the facts of the gospel and also the power of those facts in your life? What has God's grace accomplished in your life?
5. What were some of the things the Corinthians were thinking that troubled Paul (1 Cor 15:12)? Why might they be wrestling with this issue? Have you ever doubted any truths of the Bible? If so, what?
6. How did Paul explain the bodily resurrection (1 Cor.15:39-55)? How has God given Christians victory over death (vv.56-57)?
7. What are your plans this week to share the gospel? (If you don't have any, get some, it's time we get serious as a church in carrying out the mission to share the gospel).