

Big Idea: You have good reason for your faith in Jesus Christ.

Historical Jesus Christ

History does not doubt the existence of Jesus from Nazareth. The only question is, “*Was Jesus who He claimed to be?*” Some in our politically correct culture are quick to accept Jesus as a “good man” or a “good teacher.” But Jesus claimed to be God. That means He either was God, or He was a mad man. There really is NO in-between.

Max Lucado, *No Wonder They Call Him Savior*

“Like a master painter God reserved His masterpiece until the end. All the earlier acts of love had been leading to this one. The angels hushed and the heavens paused to witness the finale. God unveils the canvas and the ultimate act of creative compassion is revealed, God on a cross. The Creator being sacrificed for the creation. God convincing man once and for all that forgiveness still follows failure.”

Without these two foundational tenants (failure and forgiveness), we have no doctrine. We have no faith. Christianity is built on owning my failure and accepting God’s forgiveness. For only God can forgive the sins of mankind.

Blind Faith and Blind Criticism

There is more evidence to support faith in Christianity than any other doctrine or religious teaching. Once the evidence is digested, one soon understands that our faith is not a blind faith; it is a reasonable one. Furthermore, those who choose to reject Christ do so willingly, despite the evidence.

Biographies of the Period

The Gospels are especially reliable because they were written during the lifetimes of many of the eyewitnesses to Jesus’ life, ministry, and resurrection. This is something that cannot be said about many of history’s most famous or infamous leaders, like Alexander the Great for instance. Almost everything we know about the Greek conqueror comes from a biography written 400 years after Alexander’s death.

1. Consider the Life of Jesus Christ as told by Secular Historians

DidYouKnow? Secular history regards the life of Jesus Christ as extraordinary and in some instances even supernatural. Jesus made His impact on secular historians, not just biblical authors. You cannot view the NT as somehow separate from academic history. The NT is academic history.

2. Consider the Unity and Contemporary Support of the Gospel Authors

The Gospels provide a biographical look into the life and ministry of Christianity’s principal personality – *Jesus Christ*. Without Christ, Christianity is powerless and empty. Without the four Gospels, we would know little about Him.

Family Night – Read Luke 23:32-49

- **Elementary School** – Ask, “What did Jesus ask God to do when He was nailed to the cross (v.34)? What did Jesus promise one of the men who was crucified beside Him? What did the centurion say about Jesus?”
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, “How does it make you feel knowing there is more reliable history surrounding Jesus than almost any other ancient figure? Why did Jesus have to die? How would you describe Jesus’ death?”

Prayer: “Father, thank You for giving us Jesus and for protecting His biographies. Amen.”

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: This Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30.

Gravity: Gravity today in both services.

Today’s Songs

This Is Amazing Grace.....Phil Wickham

Worthy.....Elevation Worship

This Is My Song.....Northpoint Worship

Grandparents Day

Join us in KidsJAM on September 13 for Cookies, Milk and Bingo. All grandparents are welcome. We will see you between the services, 10:35-10:55.

Small Group Leadership Training

Training is on Saturday, September 19. Check out the QR Code in the Lobby or contact Tyler.

Fantasy Football League

Draft is Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 9pm. Contact Wayne Thaler at 912-656-9161 or see him at the Welcome Desk after the service. They need 2 more teams. The money goes to a church project like helping kids to attend camp.

New Series

“Heaven, Hell and the Afterlife” is a new series that starts next Sunday, September 13.