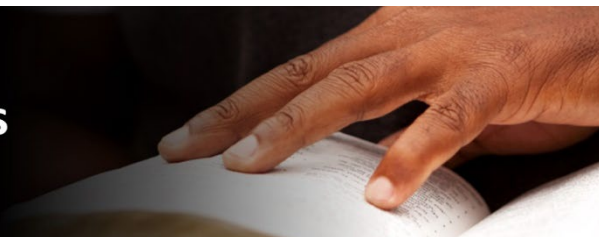


# Biblical Apologetics

How do we know it's true?



## Class 8, Wednesday, March 15, 2023

*"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." (1 Peter 3:15-16, NIV)*

### Today's Issue: The FACT of the Resurrection of Jesus

The resurrection is a crucial truth. If it didn't happen, we are wrong. If it did, it verifies the rest of the Bible. As Josh McDowell says, *"The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men, OR, it is the most fantastic fact of history."* Jesus has three essential credentials:

1. The i \_\_\_\_\_ of His life, miracles, and teachings on history.
2. Fulfilled p \_\_\_\_\_ in His life.
3. His r \_\_\_\_\_.

The first two cannot be denied by any careful historian. Is the third just as historical? That is the thrust of this week's lesson.

### Evidence for the Historical Resurrection of Jesus

We believe it, but we must also be able to defend it as an historical fact. *"How do you know it happened?"* is a legitimate question of a non-believer or a seeker. Here are reasons we believe it to be true:

1. **The B \_\_\_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_\_ it.** We have talked about the reliability of the Bible. The resurrection of Jesus is the great truth of the greatest work of literature in history.
2. **Jesus Himself c \_\_\_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_ it.** It is almost universally recognized that Jesus was the greatest teacher of

all time. He made clear that He would rise from the dead. Was this great man a liar? Was He deceived? Or did He know what He was talking about?

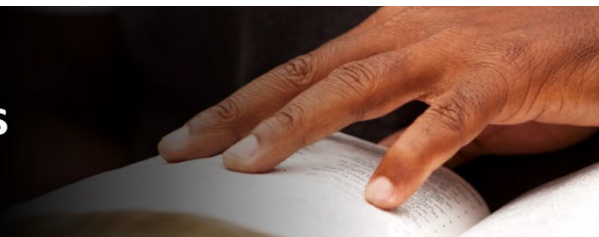
3. **The resurrection was r \_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.** *"When Pilate condemned him to the cross . . . those who had loved him from the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive on the third day. . . . (Josephus, Jewish historian, in Antiquities, 18.3.3, near the end of the first century.)*
4. **The death of Jesus was c \_\_\_\_\_ r \_\_\_\_\_.** *"Let it simply be said that we know more about the details of the hours immediately before and the actual death of Jesus than we know about the death of any other one man in all the ancient world." (Wilbur Smith.) And, yet, where is the body?*
5. **There were many e \_\_\_\_\_.** The testimony of multiple named credible witnesses adds credibility. *"I have for many years studied the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rise again from the dead." (Thomas Arnold, Oxford University.*
6. **The d \_\_\_\_\_ were m \_\_\_\_\_ because of a belief in the resurrection.** They didn't die defending a philosophy or a religion. They gave their lives based on something they had seen: *Jesus is Lord because Jesus rose from the grave!*
7. **The transformed lives of the d \_\_\_\_\_ and m \_\_\_\_\_ more.** The truth of Jesus' resurrection has been the single greatest force for good for in the personal lives of millions!

### Where Do We Go From Here?

I've been giving you things on Wednesdays that go beyond typical Bible classes. What would you like to learn? Christian history? Contemporary issues in the church? Direct Bible studies of a book? A course on Christian Doctrine?

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