



# *WHY THE RESURRECTION*

**PART 2 OF A 3 PART SERIES**

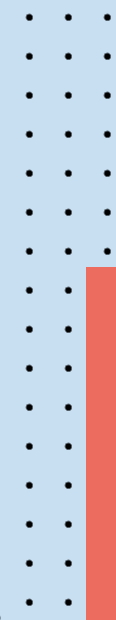
WHY THE CROSS

WHY THE RESURRECTION

WHY THE CHURCH

# WHY THE RESURRECTION?

- Because sin brought death and separation from God – Christ conquered that by raising from the dead!
- Because Jesus told us He would raise from the dead and be seated at the right hand of God. (*Matthew 26:64, Acts 5:31, 7:55*)



# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

- It became the dividing line between the early Jewish leaders and the Apostles (Acts 5:30-32, 38-39)
- It was the central component of the Apostles teaching and preaching. (Acts 2,3,4,5, | Peter 1:21-23, | Corinthians 15, Philippians 3:20-21)
- Even the greatest of skeptics since the time of the Apostles, conclude that if the resurrection actually took place, then it must be what it claims to be – a direct revelation from God.



# WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

- Our message would be without hope!  
(1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 18)
- All claims by Christ and His followers would be erroneous and unreliable. (Matthew 12:39-40, John 2:18-22, Matthew 26:63-64)



# WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

- There would have been no early church
- There would have been no miracles performed by the Apostles for where would their authority and power have come from?
- There would have been no Paul (as we know him) and no letters to guide us toward true faith
- The hope and faith displayed by Mary, Martha, Mary Magdalene and other influential women of the New Testament would have been pointless



# WHAT IF THE RESURRECTION WERE NOT TRUE?

- There would have been no Gospel according to John and no letters from him to guide us toward the light and toward true love
- There would have been no Timothy (as we know him) for why would he follow Jesus and be mentored by Paul if the resurrection were not true.
- There would have been no Lydia from Philippi to aid in the establishment of the church there for in whom would they have placed their hope



# SURVEY SAID.....

- If Jesus Christ had remained buried in the grave, then the story of His life and death would have remained buried with Him. Thus, no need for the Great Commission or the New Testament.
- Death would still be our final enemy and we would have no hope. Our preaching about the resurrection would be in vain and foolish.



# SURVEY SAID.....

- The founding of America probably would have been completely different as it probably would not have been to obtain religious freedom but for personal or patriotic gain.
- The “good Samaritan” principles, philanthropic activities, or basic good will (i.e., hospitals and orphanages) of people would have no real basis, drive or motivation.

# SURVEY SAID.....

- It is highly probable that women would not have many of the freedoms that they do today. There would probably be a lack of basic human rights, and slavery of any “weaker class” might still exist.
- Our celebration of holidays would be dramatically different, much of our music, art, literature, would look so much different without the hope that the resurrection brings!



# SURVEY SAID.....

- Without the influence of the church in history the political, religious, and social makeup of our world would be so different. Islam potentially would have gone unchecked in the Middle Ages.
- Although our present world may seem chaotic at times.....imagine the chaos of today; if as far back as the Roman Empire many had many not embraced Christ and lived for Him?



# SURVEY SAID.....

- Since the Jews have faced potential extinction on so many occasions; what would have held various tyrants from eliminating them altogether...and for that matter any other unwanted race?



# SURVEY SAID.....

- “If no resurrection – then no glorious expectation that we would spend eternity with Jesus who rose from the grave. There would be no incentive to live a holy life and use Jesus as our perfect example.” As a result each man would be his own island doing as he/she seemed fit to do. If you remove the hope of the resurrection then the moral framework of our society would be left to the best man can muster on his own, all the while greed and personal gain would continue to chip away at any good that we can produce.



**William Evans writes**; “If the resurrection of Christ can be successfully denied, if it can be proven to be absolutely untrue, then the whole fabric of the Gospel falls to pieces, the whole structure of the Christian religion is shaken at its foundation, and the very arch of Christianity crumbles into dust. Then it has wrought only imaginary changes, deluded its most faithful adherents, deceived and disappointed the hopes of its most devoted disciples, and the finest moral achievements that adorn the pages of the history of the Christian church have been based upon a falsehood”  
(**William Evans, The Great Doctrines of the Bible page 85**)

If the Resurrection were not true, then there would be no basis for truth!

- It would negate the Apostles teaching
- It would negate the death of Christ
- It would negate the birth of Christ
- It would even place the Old Testament Scriptures in jeopardy of being proven false
- If the Old and New Testament were proven false, what would be our basis for morality?



# EVIDENCES FOR THE RESURRECTION

- An Empty Tomb! (Matthew 28:1-8, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-20)
  - Attested by the women who first visited the tomb
  - Attested by the angel
  - Attested by the other disciples
  - Attested by the Roman guards though they were later bribed to change their story (Matthew 28:11-15)

# EVIDENCES FOR THE RESURRECTION

- The testimony of over 500 witnesses (see chart page 13)
- The testimony of Paul (1 Corinthians 15:1-19, Romans 8:11, Acts 9:1-9)
- The Testimony of Jesus Christ Himself (Revelation 1:17-18, John 20:20-29)
- The continual declaration by the Apostles
- The lack of credible early proof that He did not raise from the dead
- The continued teaching throughout 2000+ years of church history
- Present day believers who continue to teach the same



# THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTED BODY

- His body was a real body, not a phantom, or like Casper the friendly ghost.
  - He had flesh and bones (Luke 24:36-43)
  - Thomas touched His flesh (John 20:20-29)
  - His physical wounds were evidenced



# THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTED BODY

- His body was more than just a mere natural body (John 20:17, Acts 1:1-11)
- His body was immortal for it could not die again (Romans 6:9-10, Rev. 1:18)

# RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

- “As to Christ Himself”

- “He was not made the Son of God because He resurrected, but was declared to be the Son of God by it” (Romans 1:4, Acts 10:34-42)
- “Had Christ remained in the grave as other men had done, there would have been no grounds to impose faith in Him. The empty tomb testifies of His deity”
- Had He not of raised from the dead His words would have been untrustworthy and unreliable. (Matt. 12:13-42, Matt. 28:18-20, John 2:13-22)

# RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

- “As to the believer in Christ”
  - We have an assurance of being made acceptable with God. (Romans 4:25, 5:1-21)
  - We have a High Priest interceding on our behalf (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25)
  - We have everything we need for life and service (Ephesians 1:19-21)
  - We have assurance of our own resurrection and immortality. (I Thess. 4:14, II Cor. 4:14, Jn. 14:19)

# RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION - SO WHAT?

- “As to the world”
  - “The certainty of a resurrection”  
(1 Corinthians 15:22, Revelation 20:11-15)
  - “The certainty of a judgment day”  
(Acts 17:31, Hebrews 9:27)

# NOW WHAT?

- The story does not end at the resurrection for Jesus ascended to the “Right Hand of the Father” and He remains there as our advocate (High Priest) and intercessor. (Acts 1:9-11, 7:56, Rom. 8:34, Heb. 7:25, Rev. 5)
- Jesus told His disciples that although He was leaving them; He would return for them. (John 14:1-3)

# NOW WHAT?

- During this period of “anticipation” we continue to await His return and are not left comfortless for the Holy Spirit provides us with everything that we need to endure in a world that despises our cause. (John 14:12-31)
- It doesn't even end there for we are told that a day is coming when this same Jesus will return in the same manner that He left. (Acts 1:9-11)

# NOW WHAT?

- And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)
- Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)