

Examining the Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus



EASTER ON TRIAL

The Crossings Church - 4/1/2017 - Wes Woodell

➤ If the Resurrection did not really occur then...

1. Anything believers say today is _____.

If Christ wasn't raised to life, our message is worthless...

1 Corinthians 15:14a (CEV)

2. Anything you and I believe about Jesus is _____.

And if Christ has not been raised...your faith is useless.

1 Corinthians 15:14b (CEV)

3. You and I have been _____.

More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 1 Corinthians 15:15 (NIV)

4. Our sins are not _____.

If Christ has not been raised.... Your sins have not been forgiven.

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NirV)

5. _____ for deceased Christians.

It would also mean that the believers in Christ who have died are lost.

1 Corinthians 15:18 (GNB)

6. All followers of Christ are to be _____.

If our hope in Christ is good in this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world. 1 Corinthians 15:19 (GNB)

➤ Resurrection Theories Stated and Cross Examined

1. The _____ Theory

Sir, we remember how that deceiver said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will be brought back to life.' ⁶⁴ Therefore, give the order to make the tomb secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may steal him and say to the people, 'He has been brought back to life.' Then the last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate told them, "You have the soldiers you want for guard duty. Go and make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went to secure the tomb. They placed a seal on the stone and posted the soldiers on guard duty. **Matthew 27:63-66** (NIV)

2. The _____ Theory

But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. **John 19:33-34** (NIV)

3. The _____ Theory

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. **Matthew 27:57-60** (NIV) See also Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

➤ The Evidence for Resurrection

1. Sealing of the _____ and the _____.

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2. Jesus' _____-Resurrection _____.

...he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, ⁶ and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around... 1 Corinthians 15:5-6 (MP)

3. The _____ of _____.

Jesus ... cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. **Matthew 27:50-53** (NIV)

4. The _____ and _____ of _____.

"I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. ²⁶ The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner." **Acts 26:25-26** (NIV)

5. The _____ of Jesus' _____.

6. The _____ lives of the members of _____.

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