

RESURRECTION! YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING!

“WHY BE BOTHERED WITH JESUS PART 3”

I want to suggest we be bothered with Jesus because... He Conquered Death and is the only person to have done so.

JOHN 11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is not just an option open for Christians to believe if they want to or not!! You know.....A kind of take it or leave it arrangement! It is the central issue concerning the Christian faith's validity. It is the cornerstone of every Christian's faith and belief. In fact if Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead then Christians are to be pitied more than all people because even the Apostle Paul said all Christian preaching and Faith is USELESS if Christ has not been raised! (1Corinthians 15:13, 14.)

It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead that sets Christ apart from every religious founder who has ever lived.

It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ that gives Him the authority to be able to say that He and He alone is the only way to knowing God personally.

As Paul the apostle put it.....

ROMANS 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God 2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection

from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. You see Jesus was described as the Son of God because of His resurrection.

Christ's resurrection from the dead is the greatest attested fact of Ancient History. There has been many an opponent and sceptic of Christianity who having set out to disprove the truth of the resurrection has become a devout follower of Christ through their honest research. (e.g. Dr F. Morrison., a rationalistic Lawyer; Lord Lyndhurst., Attorney General of Great Britain; C.S. Lewis., a literary genius; Dr S. Greenleaf., Royal Professor of Law at Harvard University etc).

Professor Thomas Arnold, for 14 years the headmaster of Rugby, author of the three-volume History of Rome, and holder of the chair of modern history at Oxford, was well versed with the worth of evidence in establishing historical fact. This great student said, "I have been used for many years to study histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of the fair inquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead. # 1"

The Apostle Paul rested his whole case for his faith on the bodily resurrection of Christ. The fact of the matter is that if Christ did rise from the dead, then it is the most sensational event in all of history. If He did not, then Christianity has no objective reality or validity. One thing needs to be established...Jesus certainly did die.....

JOHN 19:34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. This is one of the surest medical signs of the death of a person.

JOHN 19:35 The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. The second thing to notice is this first hand testimony of John.

There are a number of evidences that convince me of the credibility of Christ's resurrection.

THE FACT OF THE CHURCH AND ITS EXISTENCE.

The message of the Christian church centres on the death of Christ on the cross and His resurrection.

ACT 2:29 "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

THE FACT OF THE CHRISTIAN DAY!

Christians gather together to worship on Sunday (the day Jesus rose from the dead, Acts 20v7) to celebrate and commemorate the death burial and resurrection of Christ.

THE CHRISTIAN BOOK, THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE RESULT OF THE IMPACT OF CHRIST, HIS TEACHING AND LIFE

It contains six independent testimonies to the fact of the resurrection, three eyewitness accounts and their testimonies (John, Peter and Matthew) . These men were so impacted by the truth and message of Christ that they along with the rest of the early church leaders transformed the moral structure of their day. Were they consummate liars or deluded madmen to their death?

THE EMPTY TOMB

How can it be accounted for? No-one in history has come up with any factual evidence to contradict the historical record and testimony of the scriptures. There are 10 possible explanations for the empty tomb that have been espoused through the years. Only one takes into account all the facts available and the resultant conclusion is that Jesus Christ Supernaturally rose from the dead.

(For a fuller treatment of this subject read Josh McDowell's, *The Resurrection Factor*, paperback, Here's Life Publishers, 1981.)

THE RECORDED APPEARANCES OF CHRIST

These occurred from the morning of His resurrection until His ascension 40 days later. There are ten distinct appearances recorded to either individuals, to the disciples as a group, or to over 500 people in different places, at different times.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

This was no hallucination or mere slight of fantasy. These people didn't expect to see Him again! He walked with, talked with, ate with His followers following the resurrection. This resulted in them being....

THE CHANGED DISCIPLES

How else can you describe the change in the disciples. Peter prior to Christ's crucifixion was a wimp who couldn't even stand for the Lord in front of a servant girl. Following the resurrection this same Peter stood before the leaders of the community and testified to the power of Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead.eg.

1 PETER 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Paul who had been killing Christians and persecuting the church became just as zealous for God when confronted with the truth about Christ.

THE CONTEMPORARY AND PERSONAL EVIDENCE

If Christ rose from the dead He is alive today, He is powerfully able to invade and change people's lives as they respond to Him.

Millions of people today testify to the life changing power of Jesus Christ in their lives. They come from every nation on the face of the earth, every background, from sympathetic families and nations to hostile ones. Millions testify today to the fact that Christ has revolutionized their lives. Personally, I have had the privilege of witnessing people coming to Christ in Asia, Europe and North America.

As Canon Westcott said, "There is no historic incident better or more variously supported than the resurrection of Jesus Christ" from the dead. Jesus Himself said "I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" Do you believe this? If you do then you to can have eternal life as you respond to the truth about Jesus Christ.

Be Bothered with Jesus.....

Gospel Outline

Lou Wallace and Robert Ingersol....

John.D.Rockefeller....53 \$million a day income...disease called alopecia...predicted his death at 54...got to thinking. As a result of his Christian commitment the J.D.Rockefeller Foundation established and he lived to 98!!

#1 Thomas Arnold, Sermons on the Christian Life - Its hopes, Its Fears, and its Close, p.324.