

Historical Resurrection 2021-04-04

1 Corinthians 15:14-20

if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Documentary on Ulysses S. Grant (father: anti, father-in-law: pro)

- CANCEL CULTURE tore down memorials but not change facts/history.

Few years ago began to try to cancel Jesus (BC/BCE, AD/CE) avoid reference to Christianity and Jesus Christ as Lord.

- 1 thing to deny Jesus' divinity but quite another to deny His historical existence implied by switching from traditional BC/AD to politically correct BCE/CE.
 - Christian faith: manufactured "hope-so" feeling, believing in spite of evidence, for simple, illogical, unscientific.....Myth, blind optimism.

Blind faith not true faith... must be knowledge/fact involved in true faith.

- Christian faith does not rest on feeling/blind faith but rooted in time and real history.

Evidence Jesus' life/death/resurrection better authenticated than most facts of ancient history.

- Earliest SECULAR historians view Jesus' life/death/resurrection as historical fact. Arnold

Skepticism of Christianity historical credentials based on irrational bias or willful unbelief.

- Jesus' life, death resurrection are greatest events in history of world.
 - Reason ALL events in history dated in relation to Jesus' time on earth.

Validity of Christianity primarily hangs on fact in history, Jesus' resurrection. 1 Peter 3:18, 1 Corinthians 15:17

- Resurrection does not add anything to condemnation-absorbing effect of Jesus' death.
 - Jesus' death purchased Christians acquittal, justification, forgiveness.
 - no saving significance to his death if he did not rise.
 - No resurrection, death of martyr, victim of injustice, good man
 - Easter validates Good Friday.....God's proclamation: debt has been paid, guilt is removed.
- Earliest disciples preached Jesus' resurrection which gave rise to Christian church. Machen

Impossible to *prove* any historical event in absolute sense but resurrection evidence strong:

- archaeological discoveries confirm New Testament accuracy. None after A.D. 80. slide

• Opposing “theories” actually help build confidence in truth of Resurrection. slide
No historic incident better or more variously supported than Resurrection.

- Only sensible conclusion: Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be: Messiah, Judge, Savior.

There are illogical people who believe in myth but it's not Christian....it's unbeliever.

- Jesus Christ is not a fictional character we simply “cancel” because makes it us uncomfortable
 - Deny historical facts at own eternal peril. Gospel
- Living, loving, risen Lord sees your situation/pain, will hear your cries for help and has power to change you from inside out.
 - Give new love for God/people, new hope/joy, patience in trouble, freedom from old enslavements, peace in midst of uncertainty/chaos.

Your faith is not blind but rooted in time and real history. 1 Corinthians 15:14,20, 2 Corinthians 4:14

- Rejoice/encouraged your faith is not in vain, your savior is risen forever!
 - He reigns supreme at all times, over all things...even today's chaos.
- You are modern day evidence Jesus Christ is alive, real and risen from dead.
 - You bear witness to personal life-changing power of risen, living Jesus Christ.
 - So live with faith, hope and joy in loving, saving, living Creator.
 - Emulate earliest disciples: Make “Jesus Christ is risen” your life message!

Professor Thomas Arnold, author of *History of Rome*, "I have been used for many years to study 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 that JC died and rose again from the dead."

J. Gresham Machen, “The great weapon with which the disciples of JC set out to conquer the world was not a mere comprehension of eternal principles; it was an historical message, an account of something that had recently happened. It was the message, ‘He is risen.’”

Slide 1

Eye-witnesses Reported

The great stone (2 tons) was rolled away.

Luke 24:3, Matthew 28:2, Mark 16:4,

The tomb was empty.

Matthew 28:5, John 20:1-2

The presence & unique arrangement of linen wrappings.

Jn 20:6-8, Luke 24:12

Post-resurrection appearances of Jesus:

Matthew 28:8-17, Mark 16:12-15, Luke 24:13-49,
John 21:1-25, 1 Corinthians 15:6-8 (500 at one time).

Changed lives of the doubting, fearful disciples.

Acts

Slide 2

Opposing Theories to Jesus' Resurrection

WRONG TOMB....Jewish authorities should have produced Jesus' body from proper tomb to end the "resurrection" rumor.

EYEWITNESSES WERE HALLUCINATING...produce the actual body and destroy Christianity in the cradle.

JESUS DIDN'T DIE but fainted from exhaustion and loss of blood.... then Jesus was too weak to move the stone.

JESUS BODY WAS STOLEN....depressed/cowardly disciples quietly removed Jesus body while military guards slept.