

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

"The Basis For Christian Belief"

By

Dr. Lewis R. Woodard

April 16, 2017

I Corinthians 15:21 *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*

I Peter 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

Acts 4:33 *And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.*

John 11:25 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

INTRODUCTION

1. Where can people really look if they want to see the Love of God? There is a historical event that demonstrates and proves that God is a God of Love. John 3:16; Romaine 5:8; II Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:2,25; I John 3:16; 4:9-10

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Romans 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

II Corinthians 5:14 *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Ephesians 5:2 *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

I John 3:16 *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

I John 4:9-10 *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

2. Where can people really look if they want to see the power of God? There is a great historical event that demonstrates and proves that God is a God of power. Roman 1:4; Ephesians 1:19-20; Philippians 3:10

Romans 1:4 *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

Ephesians 1:19-20 *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,*

Philippians 3:10 *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

3. When God wants to demonstrate His Grace and Mercy, He points to one specific Individual. Ephesians 2:7

Ephesians 2:7 *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

I Timothy 1:14-15 *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.*

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I. CHRIST

A. THE CLAIM

1. Jesus made an amazing claim--that He would **RISE** from the dead. Matthew 16:21; 17:9; 17:22-23; 20:18-19; 26:32; Mark 9:10; Luke 9:22; John 2:18-22; etc.

2. Jesus' enemies also knew about His claim of rising from the dead. (Matthew 27:62-64)

Matthew 27:62 *Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, 63* Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. **64** Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so **the last error shall be worse than the first.**

Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible *“The last error shall be worse than the first.”*

That is, the last deception, or taking him from the tomb, pretending that he rose, shall have a wider influence among the people than the first, or his pretending to be the Messiah.

II. WITNESSES

A. THE CLAIM

1) **MARY** Magdalene (Mark 16:9; [John 20:1-18](#)).

Mark 16:9 *“Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, ...”*

2) **WOMEN** [returning from the tomb](#) (Matthew 28:5-6a, 9).

Matthew 28:5-6a *“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6a He is not here: for he is risen...”*

Matthew 28:9 *And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.”*

3) **PETER**, [perhaps in the afternoon](#) (1 Corinthians 15:5; Luke 24:34).

1 Corinthians 15:5 *“And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:”*

4) **CLEOPAS** and another disciple [on the road to Emmaus, probably in the late afternoon](#) (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12).

Luke 24:13 *And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.*

Luke 24:18 *And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas,...*

Luke 24:30 *And it came to pass, as he [**Christ**] sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.*

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5) **TEN** disciples (Thomas absent) and others that first Sunday evening (John 20:19-24).

John 20:19-20 *Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD.*

6) **ELEVEN** disciples (Thomas present) one week later (John 20:26-29).

John 20:26 *And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.*

7) **SEVEN** disciples by the Sea of Tiberias which is the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-22).

John 21:2 *There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.*

John 21:14 *This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.*

8) **MORE** than 500 people in Galilee (1 Corinthians 15:6)

1 Corinthians 15:6 *After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

9) His disciples on the day He ascended into heaven (Acts 1:3-12).

Acts 1:1-3 *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

III. SCRIPTURES

Many so-called "Christians" claim to believe in the resurrection of Christ, but they deny that the actual body of Christ was raised from the dead. They might say that "His spirit lives on" or "His influence lives on" or "His memory lives on" but they do not believe that Jesus lives today in a glorified, resurrected body.

The living Christ who appeared to more than 500 people on one occasion was no mere "spirit" or "ghost" or "influence" or "memory."

A. THE CLAIM

1. Held by the **FEET**. (Matthew 28:9)

Matthew 28:9 *And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.*

2. He could **WALK in the country** (Luke 24:15).

Luke 24:15 *And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.*

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3. He invited the disciples to **HANDLE** (touch) Him (Luke 24:39).

Luke 24:39 *Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.*

4. He had **FLESH** and **BONES** (Luke 24:39).

Luke 24:39 *Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.*

5. He could **EAT** (Luke 24:42-43).

Luke 24:42-43 *And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took it, and did eat before them.*

6. Evidence of His **SUFFERINGS** could be seen and felt (John 20:25-27).

John 20:25-27 *The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.*

IV. THE RESURRECTION

A. CLAIM: THE IMPORTANCE

1. Without the resurrection there is no

a. **GOSPEL**, b. **SALVATION**, c. **CHRISTIANITY** d. **HOPE** for mankind. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

1 Corinthians 15:1 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is mentioned at least **104** times in the New Testament.

3. As Christians we must not only **BELIEVE** in the Resurrection, we should also know **WHY** we believe!
Romans 10:9

Romans 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

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V. RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

A. NO CLAIM, FACT

1. Our faith is founded upon FACTS and the greatest FACT of all is that "GOD...RAISED UP JESUS".

Acts 5:30

Acts 5:30 *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.*

2. Jesus really did rise again from the dead AS HE SAID. Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:44-46

Matthew 28:6 *He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

Luke 24:44-46 *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:*

If the enemies of the gospel can destroy this FACT, then they have destroyed the basis for our FAITH. Suppose an atheist or a skeptic wished to destroy the Christian faith. Let him prove that Christ never rose from the dead. When that is done, he has destroyed Christianity. His work is done.

3. We know that Christ is risen INDEED !!!!! 1 Corinthians 15:20

1 Corinthians 15:20 "BUT now IS Christ risen from the dead!"

HE IS RISEN MOST CERTAINLY!