

INTRODUCTION

1. Today is a very special day as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. In the words of the angel at Christ's tomb, "He is not here. For He has risen" (Mat.28:6).
3. Those words are foundational and they are the cornerstone to the Christian faith.
4. "Everything we are, have, and ever hope to be is predicated on the reality of the resurrection."¹

¹ John MacArthur, John MacArthur's Bible Studies: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ, p.42.

5. There would be no Christianity without it (1 Cor.15:4).
6. Many people react differently to the resurrection.
7. Some reject it because it does not fit into human reason.
8. Some reject it because they just don't believe it.
9. Some doubt it even though the evidence overwhelmingly supports it.
10. Some are indifferent to it because they just don't care if it is true or not.

11. Some are ignorant of it and not familiar with the facts.
12. Some are hostile to it and make every effort to discredit it.
13. All those reactions are wrong and unnecessary.
14. The proper response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ is faith, belief, affirmation, and application of the reality of the resurrection to one's life.
15. The New Testament presents overwhelming proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

16. At least 17 appearances of Christ occurred after His resurrection.²

17. In those 17 appearances we see that:
 - a. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (Jn.20:1-17)

 - b. He appeared to the women (Mat.28:9-10)

 - c. He appeared to Peter (Luke 24:34)

 - d. He appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Mk.16:12-13)

 - e. He appeared to the 10 disciples, minus Thomas (Mk.16:14)

² Lewis Sperry Chafer, Major Bible Themes, p.66.

- f. He appeared to the 11 with Thomas (Jn.20:26-29)
- g. He appeared to 7 disciples by the sea of Galilee (Jn.21:1-23)
- h. He appeared to 500 at one time (1 Cor.15:6)
- i. He appeared to James the Lord's brother (1 Cor.15:7)
- j. He appeared to the 11 disciples on the mountain in Galilee (Mat.28:16-20)
- k. He appeared to His disciples on the occasion of His ascension from the Mount of Olives (Lk.24:44-53)

- l. He appeared to Stephen before he was martyred (Acts 7:55-56)
 - m. He appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-6)
 - n. He appeared to Paul in Arabia (Acts 20:24)
 - o. He appeared to Paul in the temple (Acts 22:17-21)
 - p. He appeared to Paul in prison in Caesarea (Acts 23:11)
 - q. He appeared to the apostle John (Rev.1:12-20)
18. Lewis Sperry Chafer said, “The number of these appearances, the great variety of

the circumstances, and the confirming evidences that surround these appearances all constitute the strongest kind of historical evidence that Christ actually arose from the dead.³

19. The theme of the New Testament is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
20. The four Gospels, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, affirmed the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
21. The first sermon ever preached by the early church was on the resurrection (Acts 2).
22. This reality became the theme of all apostolic preaching.

³ Major Bible Themes, p.67.

23. Peter preached on the resurrection in Acts 4 and 10.
24. Stephen preached on the resurrection in chapter 7.
25. Philip preached on the resurrection in chapter 8.
26. Paul preached on the resurrection many times throughout the rest of the book of Acts.
27. So when you break it down, the theme of the epistles is also the resurrection of Jesus Christ:
 - a. Romans 6:4 (NASB) Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ

was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

- b. 1 Corinthians 15:4 (NASB) and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
- c. 2 Corinthians 4:14 (NASB) knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.
- d. Galatians 1:1 (NASB) Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead).

- e. Ephesians 1:20 (NASB) which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

- f. Philippians 3:10-11 (NASB) that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- g. Colossians 2:12 (NASB) having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

h. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NASB) and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

i. 1 Peter 1:3 (NASB) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

28. The book of Revelation affirms that Christ has the right to the earth because He was once dead and is now alive forevermore (1:18).

29. Jesus' resurrection is the foundation of all our hope.
- a. John 14:19 (NASB) After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.
 - b. John 11:25-26 (NASB) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.
30. Herbert Lockyer wrote, "Intellectually and morally, Christ is christianity. Detach Christianity from Christ and it vanishes before your eyes into intellectual vapour. For it is of the essence of Christianity that, day by day, hour by hour, the Christian

should live in conscious, felt, sustained relationship to the ever-living Author of his creed and life. Christianity is non-existent apart from Christ; it centres in Christ; it radiates, now as at the first, from Christ. He is indissolubly associated with every movement of the Christian's deepest life. "I live," exclaims the Apostle, "yet not I, 'but Christ liveth in me'." When we do see our Bridegroom's face, we will not gaze at glory, but on our King of Grace: Not at the crown He giveth, but on His pierced hand; the Lamb is all the glory of Immanuel's land.⁴

31. The importance of Christ's victory over death cannot be too strongly stressed. "Christianity is a religion of miracle," says one theologian, "and the miracle of Christ's Resurrection is the living center

⁴ Herbert Lockyer, *All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible*, p.166.

and object of Christian faith.” The doctrine of the Resurrection is of primary value for on it all the doctrines of grace depend.⁵

32. In other words, if Jesus didn't rise from the grave then there is no heaven, hell, salvation, God, Holy Spirit or truth and we have been taken as the biggest fools to believe it.

33. But Jesus did rise.

34. Consider...

LESSON

I. The Words of David (who was considered a prophet)

⁵ Herbert Lockyer, All the Doctrines of the Bible, p.53.

A. **Ps 16:10** (NKJV) For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

These words expressed the confidence of the lesser David, but were applied messianically to the resurrection of the Greater David (the Lord Jesus Christ) both by Peter (Acts 2:25–28) and Paul (Acts 13:35).⁶

1. God did not allow the usual process of decomposition to take place
2. By a miracle of preservation, Christ's lifeless body was kept from **corruption** for three days and nights.

⁶ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible, Psalm 16:10.

3. These words were written 1000 years before the birth of Christ⁷

4. In Acts 2:29-32 (NASB) Peter said, “Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. 32 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

⁷ Davd Reagan, <http://christinprophecy.org/articles/the-resurrection-in-prophecy/>

B. Paul uses David's Words in **Acts 13:34–35** in the synagogue in Antioch when he summarized Israel's history and spoke about the resurrection of Jesus using David's words from Psalm 16:10. He said, (NKJV) And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: *'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'* **35** Therefore He also says in another *Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'*

II. The Words of Jesus

A. As Jesus and His Disciples were about to go up to Jerusalem, He took them aside and told them in Matthew 20:18-19 that "the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and

scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up.

B. After Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John, **Mark 9:9** (NKJV) says “Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”

1. They didn't understand what He meant
2. Verse 10 says, “They seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead

meant.”

- C. At the Passover meal before His death, He told His disciples that they would all fall away and in **Mark 14:28** (NKJV) “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”
- D. After Jesus cleanses the temple, The Jewish leaders asked Him “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?” (Jn.2:18). Jesus replied in **John 2:19–22** (NKJV) “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” **20** Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” **21** But He was speaking of the temple of His body. **22** Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His

disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

E. Either Both David and Jesus Are Lying or They Are Telling the Truth

1. Solomon said of his Father David in 1 Kings 3:6 that He “walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart”.
2. The Apostle John said of Jesus in John 1:17 (NASB) For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

3. Jesus said He is the truth in John 14:6 (NASB) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

III. Summary of What We Have Examined So Far:

A. He Made 17 Appearance

B. 1000 Years Before His Birth, David Said He Would Rise from the Grave

C. He Said He Would Rise From the Grave

Charles Ryrie says “Some astounding facts must be explained. It is inconceivable to think they could have a satisfactory explanation other than being caused by the

resurrection of Christ. What caused the tomb to be empty? The disciples saw that it was empty. The guards reported to the Chief Priests that it was empty and took a bribe to keep quiet about it (Matt.28:11-15). If the story they were ordered to tell (that the disciples came and stole the body) were true then, of course, they should have been punished or executed for allowing that to happen while they were on guard duty. Some have suggested that the disciples went to the wrong tomb, but again the presence of the guard makes this inconceivable. The tomb was empty (the effect) because Christ had risen (the cause).”⁸

IV. There Were 4 Results of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

⁸ Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, p.268.

A. To Fulfill Scripture

Luke 24:44-49 (NASB) Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city

until you are clothed with power from on high.”

B. To Provide Forgiveness of Sins

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NASB) and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

C. To Provide Justification

Romans 4:23-25 (NASB) Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

D. To Prove Jesus is the Son of God

Paul said in Romans 1:4 that Jesus “was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.”

CONCLUSION

Still in doubt?

1. Test the evidence (that’s what Josh McDowell and Lee Stroble did and they were overwhelmed at the evidence and became believers)
2. Lee Strobel was a skeptical Atheist who thought the idea of God was stupid. Lee used his journalism and legal training to investigate the evidence of Christianity.

He said, “For most of my life I was an atheist. I thought the idea of an all-loving, all-powerful creator of the universe--I thought it was stupid. I mean, my background is in journalism and law. I tend to be a skeptical person. I was the legal editor of the Chicago Tribune. So I needed evidence before I'd believe anything.

One day my wife came up to me--she'd been agnostic--and she said after a period of spiritual investigation she had decided to become a follower of Jesus Christ. And I thought, you know, this is the worst possible news I could get. I thought she was going to turn into some sexually repressed prude who was going to spend all her time serving the poor in skid row somewhere. I thought this was the end of

our marriage.

But in the ensuing months, I saw positive changes in her values, in her character, in the way she related to me and the children. It was winsome; and it was attractive; and it made me want to check things out. So I went to church one day, ah, mainly to see if I could get her out of this cult that she had gotten involved in.

But I heard the message of Jesus articulated for the first time in a way that I could understand it. That forgiveness is a free gift, and that Jesus Christ died for our sins, that we might spend eternity with Him. And I walked out saying--I was still an atheist--but also saying, "If this is true, this has huge implications for my life." And so I used my journalism training and legal

training to begin an investigation into whether there was any credibility to Christianity or to any other world faith system for that matter.

I did that for a year and nine months until November the 8th of 1991, and on that day I realized that, in light of the torrent of evidence flowing in the direction of the truth of Christianity, it would require more faith for me to maintain my atheism than to become a Christian. Because to be an atheist I would have to swim upstream against this torrent of evidence pointing toward the truth of Jesus Christ. And I couldn't do that. I was trained in journalism and law to respond to truth. And so on that day, I received Jesus Christ as my forgiver, and as my leader.

And, just like with my wife, my life began to change. Over time my values, my character, the purpose of my life began to be transformed over time in a way that, as I look back, I can't imagine staying on the path I was on compared to the adventure and the fulfillment and the joy of following Jesus Christ.”⁹

3. What about you? Ask God to convince you of these truths and place your trust in them.
4. Jesus is alive.
5. And because He lives so can you.
6. Do you know Him today?
7. His death and resurrection was for you.

⁹ Lee Stroble, <http://www.washedred.com/content/?contentID=47>

8. Let's pray.