

Christian Evidences I

Study Pack 12 – Lecture 12

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Acts 1:2–3 –

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: 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:

- 1) Acts 1:3 describes the resurrection of Christ as being demonstrated by _____.
- 2) The resurrection of Christ in the New Testament is described as a proof of His being God. It was predicted in the Old Testament and by Christ Himself.

1 Corinthians 15:1–4 –

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

- 3) When Paul says ‘according to the Scripture’, he is referring to the Old Testament.

1 Corinthians 15:5–13 –

And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

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.

After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

4) If Christ is dead, as is every other faith system leader, then what is the point?

1 Corinthians 15:15–19 –

Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

5) Our hope in Christ, while not just for _____ life, is for _____ life.

6) If the hope that Jesus Christ gives us is just for this world, and not for eternity, then what is there for us? There is _____ hope.

1 Corinthians 15:20–22 –

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

7) In the _____ Adam, we have all sinned. The _____ Adam is Jesus Christ. Because of the virgin birth, we know that Jesus Christ is without sin. He was able through His death, burial, and resurrection to take our sin upon Himself. Through Adam, sin came; through Christ, the forgiveness of sin has come and we are made alive.

Henry Morris in *Many Infallible Proofs* wrote: “The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the _____ of Christianity. Everything else that was said or done by Christ and the apostles, no matter how great or how marvelous, is secondary in importance to the resurrection. If the resurrection did not take place then Christianity is a false religion. If it did take place, then Christ is God and the Christian faith is absolute truth.”

8) All the other founders of religions and movements are either _____ or will _____.

a. Christianity is unique in that no other religious leader can base their credibility on his own resurrection.

9) In the time-space of Scripture, Christ comes on the scene. Even those that deny Christ today cannot deny His _____. What they will claim is that He was a good teacher.

a. We don't kill our good teachers.

b. Christ dies, is buried, and rose again. Everyone alive then and there _____ this claim. If this claim wasn't true, then it would have been disputed.

10) Why was everyone worried that the body of Jesus Christ would go missing? Because He said that He would rise, because He had followers who believed He would rise, because they were worried about the disciples taking the body, because _____ that He had said and done was true.

a. Nobody _____ the miracles of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:11–15 –

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

11) The Roman Soldiers concocted this answer to the _____ of the body: “While we were asleep the disciples stole the body.”

a. Does anyone know what happened while they were sleeping?

b. How would the disciples have moved the massive stone without _____ the Roman Soldiers?

c. Why would the disciples face persecution, beatings, imprisonment, and death knowing that they had the body of Jesus _____?

Dr. Stringer said: “Liars, thieves, and hypocrites do not make good martyrs.”

12) Some have suggested that either the Romans or the Jewish Authorities _____ the body.

a. If this were true, then either of these groups, during the time when the disciples were preaching and proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ, could have produced the body of Jesus Christ.

b. Had this happened, there would have been no Christianity.

13) Others have suggested that emotionally disturbed women went to the _____ tomb. The correct tomb of Jesus was never really empty.

a. If the tomb wasn't empty, then anyone could have looked in the tomb and _____ Christianity.

- b. Why would the Roman Soldiers have concocted a _____ if the body were still in the tomb?
- 14) Others have suggested that Christ never really _____. They suggest that He was unconscious or that He faked His death and then made an escape from the tomb.
- a. Jesus had His beard plucked from His face; He was beaten by soldiers; He was beaten with a whip until He's wounded from head to toe; He's pierced in four areas; He's hung vertically for at least six hours; blood is draining from His body; He's pierced a fifth time in His side.
- b. We're supposed to reasonably conclude that this Man, after three days, _____ out of His own tomb on His _____ feet?
- c. It would require more faith to believe this idea than to believe in the resurrection of an omnipotent God.
- 15) It has also been suggested that the supposed witnesses were all _____.
- a. Jesus appeared at least ten different times to different witnesses. He appeared to:
- i. _____ M.
 - ii. The Other _____.
 - iii. He appears to _____.
 - iv. The _____ on the Road to _____.
 - v. The _____.
 - vi. All Eleven Disciples in the _____.
 - vii. The Seven Disciples at the _____ of _____.
 - viii. Five Hundred _____
 - ix. _____
 - x. The _____
- 16) Many of these individuals were not expecting to see Christ.
- 17) The Bible declares that Jesus rose bodily from the grave. This is the only _____ explanation for the facts. Christ predicted it. The Old Testament predicted it. The Jewish people knew this was a potential problem. The Romans knew this was a potential problem.
- 18) Christ was seen at least _____ different times including a crowd of _____ people at one time.
- 19) Attorney Frank Morrison attempted to write a book disproving the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The first chapter of the book is titled: "The Book that Refused to Be Written". He became so convinced of the resurrection that He converted and authored the book *Who Moved the Stone?*

Henry Morris in *Many Infallible Proofs* writes: "No wonder then, in view of the combined evidence of the empty tomb, the numerous appearances, the change in the disciples, the authenticity of the records, not to mention the testimony of two thousand years of Christian history, that such a man as Thomas Alford,

formerly Professor of History at Oxford, one of the world's greatest historians, could say this: 'I know of no one fact in history of mankind which is _____ by better, fuller evidence of every sort to the understanding of a fair sign than that God had given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead.'"

Sir Isaac Edward Clarke, a famous English attorney, said: "As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidences for the events of the first Easter Day. To me the evidence is _____, and over and over again in the High Court I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling. Inference follows on evidence, and a truthful witness is always artless and disdains effect. The Gospel evidence for the Resurrection is of this class, and as a lawyer I accept it unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men to facts they were able to substantiate."

20) The evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is overwhelming.

21) The fifth evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that the apostles gave their _____ rather than change their account of the resurrection.

22) If Jesus had not risen bodily the disciples would have known it.

Acts 12:1-2 –

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

23) According to church history and third party accounts:

- a. Peter, we believe, was _____ upside down in Rome.
- b. Matthew suffered _____ in Ethiopia.
- c. John faced martyrdom of being boiled in oil in Rome and was then _____ to Patmos.
- d. James was _____ the pinnacle of the temple.
- e. Bartholomew / Nathaniel was a missionary to Asia (Turkey) and was _____ to death there.
- f. Andrew was crucified on an 'X'-shaped cross.
- g. Thomas was _____ in India.
- h. Matthias was stoned and beheaded.
- i. The Apostle Paul was _____ and _____ by Nero.

24) The fact that the Apostles were willing to die for their faith was important. Something important had happened in their life, and what had happened was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These timid, scared, non-religious (with one exception) people were now willing to suffer death or persecution because they had _____ the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

25) The fact that all of the apostles were willing to die a horrible death, _____ to renounce their faith in Christ, is a tremendous evidence that they had truly witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Memorize Acts 1:3 –

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:

Memorize for Test 8:

False explanations for the empty tomb:

- a) The disciples stole the body.
- b) Roman or Jewish authorities removed the body.
- c) The women were emotionally disturbed and went to the wrong tomb.
- d) Christ never fully died.

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