

The Gospel of Mark History vs. Theology

NT622 The Gospel of Mark (English Text)
Professor Edward T. Wright, Ph.D
Week 2 History vs. theology
Rev. Lois B. Stewart January 31, 2020

Video 1- Historical Resurrection of Christ, N.T. Wright, Bishop of Durham in The Church of England.

I am now convinced in the historical resurrection of Jesus. I can't say that as a new Christian I was sure of or even thought about His historical resurrection. I was concentrating on Almighty God, His Father, it took some time for me to find out where Jesus' place was. Yes, I knew what He had done provided me the privilege and opportunity not only to be forgiven of my sins but to have access to Almighty God. Usually I question, this or that and want to know why but I think I just took for granted that He was born, lived, suffered and died for me and the world. Exposure to seminars, teachings and studying began to open up the historical findings that bolstered the eyewitness accounts of the gospels. I agree with Bishop Wright, that though Jesus' resurrection surprised everyone, including (or especially) the disciples they really did believe that He was raised from the dead. There really was an empty tomb, they really did meet Jesus in a resurrected body and why would they give up their lives in such horrible ways to perpetuate a lie. Short but thought provoking.

Video 2- Why History Matters for Christianity, Dr. Ben Witherington, III and Dr. Richard Bauckham

In the discussion between Dr. Witherington, III and Dr. Bauckham they start out by pointing out that simply saying the name Jesus we are saying that there was a man, Jesus who lived in the 1st century and if we believe in Jesus then we believe that God has worked out our salvation by becoming a historical person in 1st century Palestine. This goes to the distinction between actual events and the retelling of these events. They deal with the reliability of the source, can you trust the source and do the Gospels fit the historical facts. That we should start with the gospel we have, go back to the witnesses we have, are they reliable. The Gospels have always been at the heart of Christianity and they tell us much about 1st century Palestine, that have historical accounts that can be checked out. They go on to point out that reading the Gospels has always appealed to people; Jesus attracts, they encounter this man Jesus and are drawn to Him. They maintain that history matters because you cannot recreate it. (LBS although there are growing movements that are trying to do just that, a redaction of history) In their concluding they say, learn how history works, that it verifies The Gospels, there is much being done through archaeology today.

This also speaks to the necessity to value the historical nature of the gospel texts.