

JESUS WAS RESURRECTED

INTRO: Christianity stands or falls on the resurrection. If the resurrection of

Jesus from the dead is not true, then Christianity is not true. On the other hand, if the resurrection is true, then Christianity is true. The truth of Christianity rests on the resurrection. The Apostle Paul recognized this almost 2000 years ago. Notice his words in 1 Cor. 15:12-23. If the resurrection is not true, we are of all men most pitiable, because we have believed a lie and our faith in Jesus is vain. I believe that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead! You may consider me a fool, but I believe! My faith is not groundless; it is not just blind faith! I want to share with you the reasons I believe that Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of God. I believe in the resurrection of Jesus because of the evidence.

I. EVIDENCES OF THE RESURRECTION.

A. Jesus foretold His death and resurrection. Matt. 16:21; Matt. 17:9; Matt. 17:22-23.

B. The Apostles were witnesses of the resurrection. Acts 1:22; Acts 2:31-32; Acts 3:14-15; Acts 10:39-41; Acts 13:29-30.

C. If the resurrection were not true, the first to prove it would have been the Jews. Acts 2:31-32.

1. Peter was a witness! He preached the resurrection of Jesus. Acts 2:22-24; Acts 3:14-15; Acts 4:2; Acts 4:33; Acts 4:10; Acts 5:29-30.

2. Paul witnessed Jesus on the road to Damascus. He witnessed. Gal. 1:1; Rom. 8:11; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8.

II. PERSONAL APPEARANCES CANNOT BE DENIED.

A. Jesus appeared to many after His resurrection.

B. He appeared to Mary Magdalene. Mark 16:9-11. Mary never dreamed that she would see Jesus. What a surprise!

C. Other women saw Him a little later. Matt. 28:1-10.

D. Jesus appeared unto Peter. Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5.

E. He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Mark 16:12; Luke 24:15.

F. He came to the Apostles, but Thomas was absent. Lk. 24:36-41.

G. He came to the Apostles again with Thomas present one week later. John 20:26-28.

H. He appeared to seven disciples at the Sea of Galilee. John 21:1-2.

I. He appeared to more than 500 disciples at one time. 1 Cor. 15:6.

J. He appeared to James. 1 Cor. 15:7.

K. He appeared to all the Apostles. 1 Cor. 15:7.

L. He appeared to Saul of Tarsus, who became the Apostle Paul. 1 Cor. 15:8. If Jesus had not appeared after His resurrection, it would have been proven 2000 years ago. The story of the resurrection would have been put to silence.

CONCL: Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we know there will be a

resurrection. John 5:28-29; John 11:23-24; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor.

15:51-52. We never know when we are going to die; we must be ready at all times. We must be in Christ, and then we can go to Heaven. Do you want to be in Christ? You can put on Christ now.